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Jordanians fear death is imminent

Hussein flies home after doctors fail

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

A DYING King Hussein was last night flying back to Jordan with the apparent intention that he should die on home soil after a second bone marrow transplant failed to gain remission of his cancer.

"The great fear of everyone here is that the King is rushing home to die among his people and not on foreign turf," a Jordanian former diplomat said. "We all know that is what he would always have wanted."

The move caught the Jordanian authorities by surprise as earlier it had been announced that the 63-year-old monarch would remain in isolation at the Mayo clinic, Minnesota, for two weeks to give the second operation time to take effect. Efforts had been made through the state-controlled press and television to convince jittery Jordanians, deeply apprehensive of life without the charismatic King who has ruled them for 47 turbulent years, that his morale was high.

Samir Farraj, the King's doctor, said that Hussein's condition on leaving the US was critical, leading many Jordanians to fear that he might not even survive the long plane journey. He very nearly died due to complications arising from a low blood count as he was being flown back unexpectedly to the US last month.

"His Majesty's condition has become critical due to the failure of the functions of the internal organs," Lieutenant-General Farraj said. In 1992, the King had a kidney and ureter removed in a previous cancer operation.

Last night, a mood of near-panic gripped the strategic kingdom wedged between Israel and two Arab dictatorships. Only last month he returned in triumph to Amman after months of treatment at the Mayo clinic and immediately deposed his brother, Hassan, as Crown Prince and heir to the throne.

Western diplomats said that Jordanian forces had been placed on special alert in case of any attempt by neighbouring Syria or Iraq to try to take advantage of the crisis in the Hashemite kingdom to foment instability. Crown Prince Abdullah, who replaced Prince Hassan, is a major-general in command of the special forces but a political novice with little experience of diplomacy.

Shortly before the King's plane took off with doctors at his side, a senior government official said: "It is an extraordinary time for us, but things are running as smoothly as they can be, given the difficult situation. We have concerns, but we are not worried about the future of the country."

As with every aspect of the recent drama inside the court and the family intrigues that underly it, Jordanians received their first news of the King's journey home from foreign broadcasting stations and word of mouth. International telephone lines quickly became jammed.

It was only later that Jordanian television made a bland announcement, playing down the gravity of the situation by saying that the King would be flown by helicopter from the airport to the Hussein Medical Centre on the outskirts of Amman to receive further treatment.

Behind the scenes, preparations were being made for what could turn into the most significant and high-security funeral in the Middle East since President Sadat was buried in Cairo after his assassination there by Islamic extremists in 1981.

World broadcasting organisations were making frantic bids to block-book rooms in Amman's small number of top-class hotels.

In addition to leaders from around the world anxious to pay respects to the King and to show support for his successor, many members of foreign royal families are expected to attend. They include the Prince of Wales, who this week sent his congratulations to Crown Prince Abdullah.

"This has only confirmed that in January the King came home to do the business — to put his throne in what he believed was the safest pair of hands and to return it to his own line," a diplomat said.



King Hussein waving to his people on returning to Jordan from the US last month

The second homecoming this morning will contrast poignantly with the King's courageous return at the controls of his own jet just over two weeks ago when he informed his people that he had been cured of the lymphatic cancer that had kept him in the US for six months. Against medical advice, he drove 15 miles through the city in an open-top car in lashing rain and shook hands with or embraced more than 2,000 of his subjects.

The Times has learnt that some of the King's doctors tried to prevent him from returning to Amman then and urged him to stay on longer in London. But he insisted. "He said that only the sight of his people on the streets would give the legitimacy he wanted to changed back the succession," said one source.

In a bid to quell continuing rumours of feuding at court, Prince Hassan yesterday chaired a session of the Jerusalem committee which he has always run. This was his first public duty since he was deposed and retired in a huff to his residence.

Officials denied an Israel television report that Prince Hassan had sought permission from the King to move with his family to England.

News censored, page 16

Surprise rate cut of 0.5% cheers City but hits savers

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND SUSAN EMMETT

SAVERS were dealt a savage blow yesterday with the fifth successive monthly cut in the Bank of England base rate from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent. National Savings certificates returns hit a 40-year low.

The Bank's unexpected decision to trim base rates was greeted with widespread acclaim by the business and the unions, relieved that further action has been taken to tackle the rapidly slowing economy. Mortgage lending rates were cut to their lowest levels for 30 years.

Although none of the banks or building societies announced an immediate cut in their savings rates, saving returns are expected to drop by the end of the month. The average no-notice account now pays a meagre 2.13 per cent while 90-day accounts pay about 3.78 per cent, according to *Moneyfacts*, the financial data publication.

The Bank said it had taken the decision because of continuing concerns about the health of the global economy and signs that consumer demand and domestic inflation remain weak. Base rates have fallen from a peak of 7.5 per cent last autumn to their lowest level in four years.

There was relief in the Government because the cut closed the gap between UK and European interest rates and made the prospect of a "soft landing" for the economy more likely. The Prime Minister said the reduction should help the economy weather "what was always going to be a tougher situation for jobs and businesses".

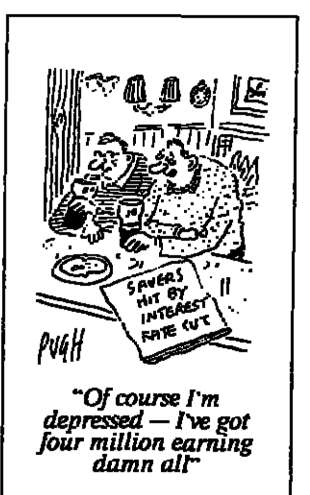
However, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said the Bank clearly thought the economy was "in a lot more trouble than Gordon Brown complacently predicts". Mr Maude said the savings ratio (the percentage of income saved) had gone down by almost a third since Labour came to office.

He accused the Government of embarking on a "vindictive attack on savings" just when a savings culture was beginning to take root. "As part of their policy to raise taxes without people realising they have been hit, Labour have chosen to hit people's pensions and savings. In doing so they have jeopardised the culture of savings."

National Savings, which holds £64 billion of savers' money, has indicated that its rates are going to fall even fur-

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"Of course I'm depressed — I've got four million earning damn all"

Old-aged peers

Life peers over the age of 75, such as Baroness Thatcher and Baron Callaghan of Cardiff, face expulsion from a reformed *House of Lords*. Ministers are examining proposals to allow about two-thirds of the existing 502 life peers to stay .... Page 2

Rover threat

Longbridge, the huge Rover car plant in the West Midlands with 14,000 employees may be abandoned by its parent company, BMW, after a power struggle at the German headquarters .... Page 27

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Failure of Diana trademark plea paves way for a people's pin-up

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

AN ATTEMPT by the family and memorial fund of Diana, Princess of Wales, to turn her face into a trademark has been turned down by the Patent Office.

The ruling should make Diana's likeness as freely available as effigies of Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and James Dean, the other 20th-century heroes who died tragically young.

The Patent Office ruling, following 16 months of intense negotiations, is a blow for celebrities hoping to stop opportunists exploiting their fame. If Diana's family and fund had succeeded, they would have won unprecedented and overwhelming power to control the way her image was used.



The Patent Office, which has never allowed a dead person's likeness to become a registered trademark, ruled that Diana is an historical figure rather than a commercial brand. The attempt to turn the late Princess into a trademark was made by submitting 52 photographs of her to cover every age, mood, outfit and angle.

Enough pictures were provided to create a three-dimensional image of Diana, which would have helped to prevent the manufacture of unofficial dolls, sculptures and holograms.

The family's only chance of stopping a free-for-all in souvenirs of the Princess now is to ask the High Court to take the unusual step of overruling the Patent Office decision. They must do so by March 3.

The only living people to have registered their images as trademarks in Britain are the racing drivers Jacques Villeneuve and Damon Hill and footballer Eric Cantona. They succeeded because they were able to convince the Patent Office that they were already trading on their image in a commercial way.

Villeneuve submitted three photographs of his face with different expressions. Cantona sent one of his face and another of the back of his shirt reading "Cantona 7". Hill has only turned his eyes into a trademark, staring through the visor of his Formula 1 helmet. The Diana application was far more comprehensive.

The souvenir industry will react quickly to the ruling. So far, there have been no Diana posters in shops because publishers feared being sued by the litigious memorial fund. Now the late Princess, mother, cover girl and campaigner for the dispossessed can assume a new role: the People's Pin-Up.

RAC prangs members' £34,000 windfalls

BY JOANNA BALE

ABOUT 12,000 members of the Royal Automobile Club who had been banking on a £34,000 windfall from selling RAC Motoring Services to Cedant, the American conglomerate, had their payouts cancelled when the deal was called off yesterday.

Cendant pulled out of the £450 million sale when Kim Howells, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, attached strings to the deal after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation. The RAC immediately announced plans to float the company on the London Stock Exchange in the summer. It also said that some other potential trade and financial buyers had expressed an interest in a deal and that discussions would go on in parallel with flotation preparations.

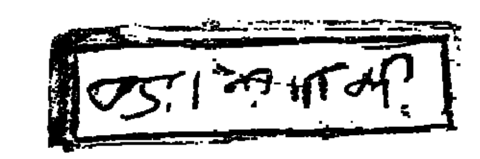
The failed deal was a blow for the members, many of whom had spent their windfall. On being told of the news, Ronnie Fox, a senior partner in the London law firm Fox Williams, said: "Aargh! I've already spent the money on a little sports car. I bought the car thinking 'this will just tie up nicely with the money coming in.' It's a great shame, but let's hope that another buyer will come along soon."

Another member, an advertising executive, is known to have rekindled a teenage love affair with powerful motorcycles, while one QC fulfilled his desire for a Jaguar XJS.

The 12,000 members, who are entitled to use the RAC's luxurious headquarters in Pall Mall, central London, were on course for the windfall until Peter Mandelson, the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, referred the bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in September. Cendant pulled out yesterday after Kim Howells, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, ruled that, in line with a Monopolies and Mergers Commission recommendation, Cendant would have to divest itself of Green Flag, the breakdown company, if the RAC takeover were to go ahead.

The RAC said: "We are very disappointed with the government decision. It is now up to the board to get the best deal for shareholders."

Flotation question, page 27



Once more round the block without loss of marbles



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

As we age, the lure of *the familiar* grows. How comforting is the known! Books we've already read, resorts we've visited, old haunts, old chums...

And old debates. Yesterday a doomed House of Lords shuddered at the abyss — and reached for a security blanket: an argument about the return of the Elgin Marbles.

The umpteenth debate, old classic and hoary perennial, this is one of their lordships' favourites. Like a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta they know the lines. The pros and cons are settled, rehearsed and simple to understand. In a bewildering world of micro-chips, *techno hip-hop and Glenn* Hoddle, this is something peers can really get their grizzled heads around.

They went at it eagerly. Lord Jenkins of Putney (in the half-remembered past an Arts Minister) put his Question: "Will Her Majesty's Government respond favourably to the Greek Government's re*quest for the return of the* Parthenon Marbles to Athens?"

Calling them "the Parthenon Marbles" shows you are aware of Greek sensitivities. Wispy-bearded Lord Jenkins is one of those revolutionary hotheads who want to let the Marbles go. According to the libretto of this operetta he therefore joins the red troupe. The blue troupe is characterised by retired museum boffins and growling Tories of *the "why-oh-why?" school.*

But Jenkins departed from the script, introducing a novelty stage-prop: a piece of paper — an invitation (he said) from Greece, to talks. Waving it he declared that he would now hand it to the minister. A ripple of surprise. Lord McIntosh of Haringey declined the invitation.

Then another novelty. Jenkins produced an opinion poll proving (he said) that a *majority of the public support*ed him. Odd. I later interviewed the 27-strong queue for the Lords public gallery. Only three knew what the Marbles were.

Scene 2 next: the minister's reply. Causing a flutter of concern among the blue troupe, *McIntosh didn't say "Elgin* Marbles" but "Parthenon Sculptures". Nothing to fear, however. Whatever they were, they weren't going back. It would be "a disaster" if galleries and museums had to return everything originating abroad. His lordship was too polite to spell it out: Britain would be left with some flint *tools, crossbows and a couple* of oil paintings of aristocrats with spaniels. Lord Windlesham, a museum boffin, seemed to agree.

Lord Strabolgi and Lady Saltoun of Abernethy joined the blue troupe. There's no beating about the bush with Lady Saltoun: "My lords, *we've saved them and we* should keep them." For the red troupe, Lord Rea hailed a cut in Athens air-pollution.

As ever, the Liberal Democrats found the Third Way. A solemn Lord Falkland told peers that on the one hand it was "reasonable" for the Greeks to claim the Marbles back; on the other, we were right to feel it was "paramount" they be kept in the best place. "Consensus" must be sought, he warbled. Belgium?

*One peer's reason for keep*ing the Marbles was that the British Museum is so convenient. Even McIntosh felt this went too far: São Paolo's splendid museum, he said, contained much he could more easily see here: this was perhaps not an argument for airlifting its contents from Brazil to London.

In dealing with his peers, McIntosh gets dangerously close to feather-ruffling levels of scorn. Lord Mishcon asked whether he was in favour of the return of marbles generally. McIntosh snapped. "Depends who's lost them, my lords."

Shock waves rocked the chamber.

Life peers could be forced to quit at 75

By James Landale, political correspondent

LIFE peers over the age of 75, such as Baron Callaghan of Cardiff and Baron Jenkins of Hillhead, face expulsion from a reformed House of Lords under plans for a mandatory retirement age.

Ministers are examining proposals to allow about two-thirds of the existing 502 life peers to stay on in a fully reformed second chamber. But they could impose a retirement age of 75 to exclude 148 *life peers as there would not be* enough room for them all.

A bar on the over-75s would prevent many distinguished members of "the great and the good" from playing a part in parliament. Those forced out would include Baron Attenborough, 75, the film director; Baron Weatherill, 78, the former Speaker, and Baron Healey, 81, *the former* Labour Chancellor. Baroness Jay of Paddington, 59, the Leader of the Lords would survive, but her father, Lord Callaghan, 86, the former Prime Minister, would not. Baroness Thatcher is 75 next year.

Other expelled peers would include Baroness Castle of Blackburn, 88, the former La*bour Cabinet minister. Lord* Jenkins, 78, the former Liberal Leader in the Lords, Baron Rix, 75, the former doyen of Whitehall farce, and Baron Hailsham of St Marylebone, 91, the former Lord Chancellor. At 100, Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, would also face the chop. Voluntary retirement would also be encouraged by allowing life peers who give up their voting and speaking rights to retain their "club rights" to use the Lords' bars and restaurants.

The fixed retirement age could prompt charges of ageism against the Govern*ment which* before Christmas launched a fresh drive against age discrimination in the workplace with a voluntary code.

The option to allow 354 existing life peers under the age of 75 to remain in the Lords provides a fresh signal of the growing support within the Government for having a largely appointed second chamber. Other members would probably be chosen by indirect or direct election.

Next week, the Government will appoint a Royal Commission — chaired by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory Cabinet minister — to bring forward second-stage proposals within a year for a fully reformed second chamber. A first-stage Bill *to expel hereditary peers* received its second reading in the Commons this week.

Ministers believe that retaining some of the life peers would give the new chamber an element of continuity. The peers would provide a wealth of experience and save the Government the enormous task of having to appoint a huge *swathe of new members.*

The proposal would also make it easier to find people willing to accept a life peerage during the transitional House of Lords. If life peers were not to be kept on for the fully reformed chamber, many potential nominees would baulk at being appointed for just a few years. A spokesman for Lady Jay said: "These are all ideas that the Royal Commission would have to consider."



Thatcher: the lady will be turning 75 next year



JOHN GILES/PA

TWO lorries lie on their sides on the A1 at Boroughbridge in North Yorkshire after being blown over as severe gales wreaked havoc across northern Britain yesterday. Fourteen lorries toppled over on one stretch of the A1 at Scotch Corner in North Yorkshire as gusts reached 90mph. Police warned drivers of high-sided vehicles not to use the A1 or M62.

Gales batter North

Forecasters predicted little respite today. The PA WeatherCentre said: "The extremely windy weather will be around until lunchtime, and even after that there will be strong gusts."

Six thousand homes were without electricity in north Scotland. Scottish Hydro Electric said severe gale-force winds brought disruption throughout its area, with Shetland, Wick and Dingwall worst affected. Efforts to restore supplies were hit by disruption to air and ferry services, and helicopters were being placed on standby, the company said.

A Panamanian-registered cargo ship ran aground off Orkney after dragging her anchor in the early hours. Kirkwall lifeboat and a coastguard helicopter were alerted, and stood by to rescue the *Baltic Champ's* seven-man crew. The 1,660-ton ship later managed to free herself on a rising tide and was escorted by lifeboat to Kirkwall harbour.

In England, boardings on buildings in Sheffield city centre were blown off and a shopping trolley swept up by the wind slightly injured an 80-year-old woman in Barnsley. Another South Yorkshire pensioner was swept off her feet by the gusts, police said.

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Farmers' fury over extended beef ban

By *Michael Hornsby, agriculture correspondent*

FARMERS and butchers rounded on Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, yesterday for refusing to end the 14-month ban on beef on the bone.

Mr Brown, who had been hinting since before Christmas that cuts such as T-bone steaks would be soon be back on sale, told the Commons that the ban would stay for at least six more months.

Opposition MPs accused the Government of being inconsistent and of ignoring independent advice on some food safety issues while heeding it on others.

Mr Brown said he had been advised by the Chief Medical Officer, (CMO) Professor Liam Donaldson, that there was still a small, though reduced risk of becoming infected with the human form of "mad cow" disease from eating bone-in beef. In his advice, released yesterday, Professor Donaldson voices concern that a few cattle infected with BSE by their mothers might still be entering the food chain.

"I know that this will be a great disappointment to many in the food and farming industries and to many would-be consumers," Mr Brown told MPs. "*But the need to protect* public health and retain confidence in beef and beef products remains the Government's paramount concern.

"It is encouraging that the CMO sees grounds for hoping the situation will improve and, if we can, consistent with a further assessment of the medical and scientific evidence, we will lift the ban after the review recommended by the CMO for six months time."

Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the decision to keep the ban defied common sense and was out of all proportion to any risk involved. "All the scientific evidence which has been published so far has concluded that any risk from eating beef on the bone is absolutely miniscule", he said.

Roger Kelsey, of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders, representing 3,000 independent butchers, said: "It is a complete nonsense. Mr Brown said he wanted to let the consumer decide. Now he has done a U-turn."

Although beef on the bone accounted for only 5 per cent of all beef sales before the ban, Mr Kelsey estimated that specialist butchers had lost up to 15 per cent of their business.

The Consumers' Association called for more consistency on food safety policy, but said that, in the light of the CMO's advice, it was "satisfied that on this occasion the Government has quite rightly placed public health first".

PILL IS MORE OF A RISK THAN A T-BONE

Meat lovers who ignore the beef-on-the-bone ban have more chance of dying from taking the Pill or being struck by lightning. The Department of Health's calculations put the risk of dying from eating a T-bone steak at about one in two billion. Ian Langford, a senior research fellow in risk perception at the University of East Anglia, said: "There is no such thing as no risk, but one in two billion is close to zero. To put it in context, if the risk is less than one in a billion you are more than 100 times more likely to be killed by lightning and 10,000 times more likely to be murdered." The Chief Medical Officer has argued, however, that too little is known about "mad cow" disease to make valid comparisons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sex abuse statistics 'too low'

Official figures greatly underestimate the prevalence of child sex abuse, a Home Office report said. In 1995 3,957 people in England and Wales were cautioned or convicted for sexual offences against children, but police reports suggest about 72,600 cases a year according to the report's author, Don Grubin, Professor *of Forensic Psychiatry at* Newcastle upon Tyne University.

In spite of parents' worries about "stranger danger", the report found that most victims knew their abuser. Eighty per cent of child sex offences took place in the home of the offender or the victim. A fifth of cases involving female adolescent offenders were linked to babysitting.

The report added that about a third of all sex crimes were committed by teenage boys and girls.

Illegal refugees

Some 20,000 asylum-seekers are on the run in Britain, the Government has disclosed. The Home Office Minister Lord Williams of Mostyn said last night that the figure, which was calculated by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate, included those who had breached immigration rules or were "out of contact" with officials.

Pinochet waits

The House of Lords reserved judgment, to a date to be decided, after a 12-day hearing into whether General Pinochet is immune from arrest and extradition to Spain over alleged human rights crimes. The latest hearing followed the Law Lords setting aside their previous decision to overturn a High Court ruling that the general has immunity.

Legal aid flaws

The criminal legal-aid budget has failed to win approval from government auditors for the seventh year running. The National Audit office found aid being granted without *sufficient proof* of entitlement in 25 per cent of cases and errors by court officials in calculating claimants' contributions in 38 per cent of cases. The total budget is £600 million.

Tube strike on

London Underground staff will stage a 48-hour strike in a dispute over job security and employment conditions once private companies have taken control of track and signalling. The Rail, Maritime and Transport union will tell its 7,000 members not to report for duty between 6pm on Sunday, February 14, until 6pm on Tuesday, February 16.

Viewers bugged

Thousands of people called the Government's "millennium bug" hotline after seeing an item on daytime television that said the computer problem could bring "centuries without water or light". The feature, during Wednesday's *This Morning*, was dubbed "irresponsible and dangerous" by Action 2000, the campaign body and hotline organiser.

Academics raise pay ceiling

Higher education salaries top £200,000, says **John O'Leary**

ACADEMICS in Britain have broken the £200,000 pay barrier, according to a survey in today's edition of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

The annual study, which monitors the salaries of heads of higher education institutions, shows the directorship of the London Business School to be the plum job in the university system.

The three men who held the post in turn during 1997-98, when Professor George Bain moved to Queen's University, Belfast, earned £207,000.

However, the top earner was an another member of staff at LBS, who was paid £220,000.

The school refused to divulge his name last night, but said that the salary included a performance bonus and payments *for teaching executive programmes.* Professor Bain took a pay cut of almost £70,000 to move to Belfast but still earned the sixth-highest salary. His successors in the LBS directorship were Michael Earl and John Quelch.

Other university vice-chancellors have considerable ground to make up, despite average pay rises of 4.8 per cent last year.

David VandeLinde, of Bath University, is second on the *THES* list after an 8.9 per cent rise brought his salary to £147,000. He has since taken a £7,000 pay cut in return for more holidays.

Both Oxford and Cambridge are well down the list. Sir Alec Broers, at Cambridge, shared 41st place with Professor Frank Gould, of East London University, *on £117,000, while Dr Colin Lucas*, at Oxford, was 115th on £87,404.

A handful of vice-chancellors saw their pay reduced during 1997-98. Mike Fitzgerald, the former Vice-Chancellor of Thames Valley University took the biggest cut, of 4.3 per cent, bringing his salary to £89,000. He has since resigned after a damning report on the university by the Quality Assurance Agency.

The Association of University Teachers said that the vice-chancellors owed their record-breaking salaries to the efforts of lowly-paid lecturers.

Paul Cottrell, the assistant general secretary, said: "We wait to hear of a vice-chancellor who refuses to take a bigger pay rise *than his staff. We suspect it will be a long* wait."

Fifth rate cut worries savers

Continued from page 1

ther. A spokesman said: "We *will be looking at the* short-term and medium-term rates on the money markets and we will have to set out rates accordingly."

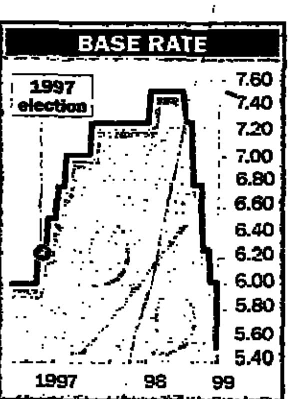
National Savings slashed rates five times last year and recently reduced all its rates by between 0.25 per cent and 0.5 per cent. Returns for National Savings certificates have hit a 40-year low with the launch of the 49th issue which now pays 3.25 per cent.

Pensioners, who rely on the safety of deposit accounts for a steady income, will be the *most affected by the rate cuts.* Harold Becker, a 77-year-old pensioner from Twickenham, *London, is worried that his* standard of living will be affected. Mr Becker said: "Old-age pensioners like me who rely on the income from their savings feel pretty lousy when rates drop every month."

Major mortgage lenders quickly followed the Bank's lead reducing their standard variable rates by as much as 0.5 percentage points. The Halifax and Nationwide claimed that their new rates were the lowest on offer since 1966. Halifax cut its standard variable rate by 0.5 percentage points to 6.95 per cent while Nationwide reduced its lending rate by a similar amount to 6.54.

Other lenders, however, cut their rates by smaller amounts taking advantage of the latest cut in base rates to try andto improve their profit margins. The Abbey National said it was only reducing its rate by 0.4 percentage points to 7 per cent while Cheltenham & Gloucester reduced its rates by 0.46 percentage points to 6.99 per cent.

Kate Barker, chief economist at the Confederation of British Industry, welcomed the "decisive move" but said *that "rates can and should be* further reduced to 5 per cent over the next couple of months." Union leaders offered the Bank their seal of approval although they pleaded for action to help revive the manufacturing sector.



JUSTICE FRUSTRATED: smuggling case collapses as judge condemns investigators for disregarding law

Customs sink SBS raid on drug boat

By Simon de Bruxelles

IT WAS one of the most dramatic drugs seizures made on the high seas by British Customs officers.

Heavily armed commandos from the elite Special Boat Squadron led the raid on the 52ft Maltese-registered motor vessel *Simon de Danser*, 100 miles off the Portuguese coast — the culmination of a 12-month international surveillance operation.

On board they found 4,128 kilograms of cannabis resin with a street value of £14.5 million — as well as a Special Boat Squadron colleague and two recently discharged members of the squadron, who were arrested and accused of helping to organise the shipment. A second SBS man was arrested later.

At Bristol Crown Court yesterday, however, the case against the ten alleged smugglers, collapsed in disarray. It was thrown out by a judge who described the Customs investigation that led to their arrests as "a catalogue of flawed proceedings, illegalities and incompetence".

The trial, which had been expected to last six months, ended without a jury being sworn in. After hearing almost three weeks of legal argument, Judge John Foley ruled that there had been overwhelming abuse of due process.

He said: "This case has revealed a culture and climate of carelessness, recklessness and disregard for the rules, procedures and conventions of Maltese law, British law and international law." He criticised the "destruction" of potentially important evidence such as the ship's navigational charts, which were subjected to forensic examination before being formally photographed. He also said that senior Customs investigators were "unconvincing" witnesses.

Within hours of the judge's ruling the Crown Prosecution Service announced that it was dropping extradition proceedings against Brian Charrington, 40, a former car dealer, who lives in Spain. He was accused of being the financier of the shipment of cannabis from Morocco to Britain.

His elder brother David, a former powerboat racing champion from Powderham, Devon, was among those discharged yesterday. The court had been told that the *Simon de Danser* had been shadowed across the Mediterranean from Malta by Customs investigators. After a stopover in Madeira, the ship and its illegal cargo headed north. On May 5, 1997, Operation Darden culminated in the interception of the vessel in international waters by *HMS York*, a Royal Navy warship.

The vessel and its cargo were escorted to the Royal Navy dockyard at Devonport. The seven men on board, and three others arrested in Britain, were charged with conspiracy to smuggle Moroccan cannabis resin into Britain.

British officials had been given permission to seize the vessel by Lino Vassalli, director of the Maltese Maritime Authority. In fact, the only person with authority to grant official approval was Borg Berthet, the Attorney-General of Malta, the court was told.

Lawrence Montalto, a Customs officer, said that he had contacted the Attorney-General's office but there was no record of him making such a telephone call.

Judge Foley said: "I did not find Mr Montalto a credible witness. I think it is likely he was being untruthful."

The British told the Maltese authorities that the vessel would be seized "off the coast of the UK" and misled them into believing it was in international waters when it was still berthed in Madeira. The judge said that the boarding happened 900 miles from Britain.

There was also uncertainty over the vessel's destination. The judge said that David Raynes, assistant chief investigation officer for the Customs in the West Country and Wales, was going "on a hunch" rather than firm evidence when he decided it was heading for Britain. The judge, who described Mr Raynes and Mr Vassalli as unconvincing witnesses, said there was some evidence that the ship was bound for The Netherlands, which would have made the boarding illegal.

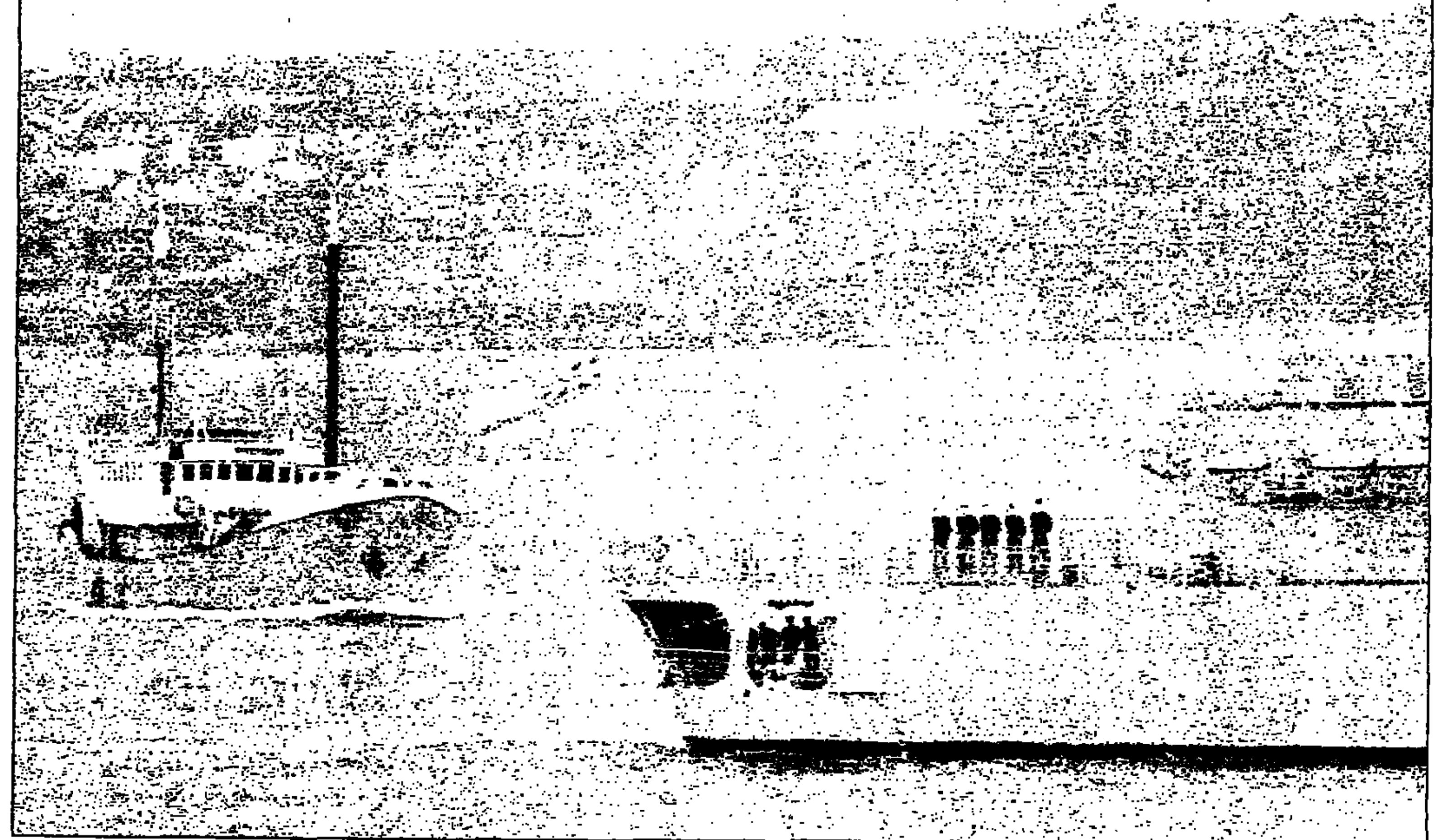
Alun Jenkins, QC, for the Crown, said that, if there had been a "procedural" mistake, it was an innocent one and should not make the seizure unlawful.

The Customs and Excise National Investigation Service and the National Crime Squad, which conducted the joint investigation, said that the collapse of the trial was regrettable and disappointing. "Such cases are always complex. This case presented added dimensions and difficulties.

"The investigation culminated in the interdiction of the vessel 100 miles off Portugal. In excess of four tonnes of cannabis with a value of just under £14.5 million was seized and thus prevented from reaching the illicit drugs market.

"All the agencies involved will consider the details of the judge's remarks to see what procedural lessons can be learned for the future."

TONY CARNEY



The *Simon de Danser*, which was boarded by commandos 100 miles off Portugal, being escorted into Plymouth by a Royal Navy warship

Wealthy fugitive escapes second hearing

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

BRIAN CHARRINGTON, the sometime garage owner and police informant accused of being one of Britain's biggest drug dealers, has escaped trial for the second time. Within hours of the collapse of the *Simon de Danser* case, the CPS announced that it was abandoning extradition proceedings against him.

Arrested in 1997 after his brother and the SBS men were held, Mr Charrington, 41, has been free since August when a Spanish court released him on bail of £200,000.

Once a garage owner and second-hand car dealer in Middlesbrough, Mr Charrington was first arrested in 1992 as he stepped off his private aircraft. He was accused of a conspiracy involving 1,400kg of cocaine worth more than £150 million. Customs officers allegedly found £2 million in cash at his home, some of it allegedly bearing traces of drugs.

Customs also seized a £15 million consignment of cocaine after bugging his home. During the investigation a further 900kg of the drug was allegedly discovered inside ingots of metal.

But Mr Charrington, who was one of 10 people charged, never stood trial. The case was dropped after his claim that he had been working as a police informer was backed by Cleveland detectives. It was said that his arrest had ruined a chance to stop Colombian cocaine entering Europe.

Mr Charrington's release prompted questions in the Commons. A four-year investigation into allegations of corruption against two experienced Cleveland officers ended without prosecution.

Mr Charrington moved to Spain and was reported three years ago to be under investigation by the French police in connection to a cargo of cannabis found on a yacht. He was never charged.

At his villa in Calpe, Mr Charrington has a private helicopter, luxury cars and weapons. But he has not forgotten his informing days — he has launched an action against police for £1 million that he claims he is still owed.

Boarding party found commandos in crew

By Simon de Bruxelles

WHEN members of the Special Boat Squadron raided the *Simon de Danser* in mid-Atlantic, they would have recognised some of those who were already aboard.

The 279-tonne vessel's crew included one serving SBS man, Nigel Spencer, and two who had recently left the squadron, Peter Mercer and the skipper, Charles Thomas.

A second SBS man, Mark Jones, was arrested in England after the raid. Both Mr Jones and Mr Spencer have since left the service.

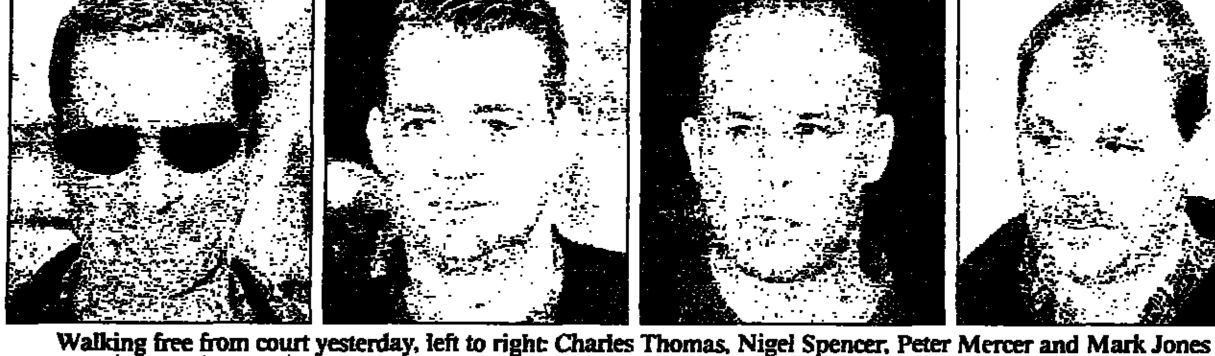
The reunion on board the drug ship would not have been a warm one. The SBS, which recruits exclusively from the Royal Marines, is proud of its elite reputation as a sea-going version of the SAS.

Unlike their army counterparts, members have so far largely resisted the temptation to brag in print about their achievements. Major General Robert Fulton, Commandant-General of the Royal Marines, said that the regiment was "very proud of our hard-earned reputation, professionalism and self-discipline.

"We were extremely disappointed to hear in May 1997 that two serving officers had been arrested and this disappointment was greatly magnified by the nature of the alleged offences.

"The Royal Marines have a total antipathy towards anything to do with drugs and no sympathy for anyone involved in such business."

The acquitted defendants were David Malcolm Charrington, 45, of Powderham, Devon; Timothy Paul Spink, 33, of Torquay, Devon; Charles John Thomas, 37, of Poole, Dorset; Nigel Spencer, 28, of Poole; Peter David Mercer, 28, of Clevedon, North Somerset; Mark William Jones, 33, of Paignton, Devon; and Anthony Dallara, 34, Martin John Wallsden, 42, and Alain Coelier, 38, who all live in Spain.



Walking free from court yesterday, left to right: Charles Thomas, Nigel Spencer, Peter Mercer and Mark Jones

JUSTICE FRUSTRATED: trial flawed, say judges

IRA man free because secret agents broke law

By Susie Steiner and Michael Evans

THE last Northern Ireland republican prisoner held in an English jail was freed yesterday after the Court of Appeal ruled that intelligence officers had broken the law in bringing him to trial for a mainland bombing campaign.

Nicholas Mullen, who was jailed for 30 years for conspiracy to cause explosions, did not dispute the evidence connecting him to a heavy bombing campaign planned by the IRA in 1989 against the House of Commons, individual politicians and judges.

But his conviction was quashed by the Court of Appeal after it emerged that intelligence officers had brought him to England for trial through deportation rather than the correct and lengthy process of extradition. The judges ruled that the British authorities had shown "a blatant and extremely serious failure to adhere to the rule of law" in conspiring with Zimbabwe, where Mr Mullen was staying, to deport him.

The prisoner, who has served nearly ten years in Frankland prison, Co Durham, emerged yesterday hugging his 17-year-old daughter Jessica and saying: "I'm glad to be coming out of the front door rather than the back door. I have been wronged."

Mr Mullen was convicted in 1990 for his role as an IRA "fixer" who supplied premises, cars, false birth certificates and banking facilities to an active terrorist cell that was planning to bomb London.

His trial jury heard that, on December 20, 1988, Mr Mullen fled to Zimbabwe with his girlfriend, Jenny Payne, and Jessica, then seven. The next day police raided a South London flat rented by him and found ammunition, Semtex and incendiary devices.

Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Colman and Mr Justice Maurice Kay, quashed Mr Mullen's conviction. "For a conviction to be safe it must be lawful," they said. "And if it results from a trial which should never have taken place it can hardly be regarded as 'safe'." Lord Justice Rose said: "The conduct of the security services and police in procuring the unlawful deportation of the appellant represents, in the view of this court, a blatant and extremely serious failure to adhere to the rule of law."

The court was told that British secret intelligence service (SIS) officers furnished the Zimbabwean authorities with sufficient detail about Mr Mullen to warrant deportation. This was done "with a constant eye on any subsequent legal proceedings in London". An SIS officer told the Zimbabwe authorities that Britain wished to avoid "becoming involved in complicated extradition proceedings" but that, at the same time, Britain must not appear to be demanding deportation. SIS officers ensured that Mr Mullen was denied access to a lawyer, to avoid the risk that Zimbabwean authorities "would be pressured into deporting him elsewhere".

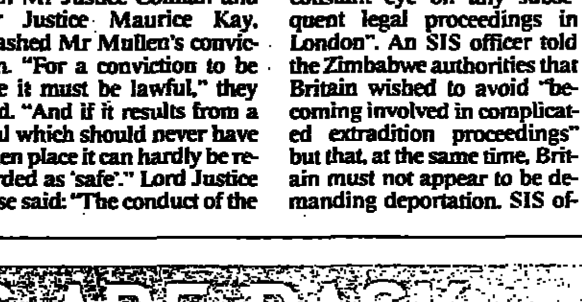
The court heard that the deportation was stage-managed by SIS officers who stated: "The ideal would be for Mullen to be arrested shortly before the departure of a direct flight and put aboard it. A stage manager's skills would be essential here . . ." Information about the SIS actions came to light six months ago after Mr Mullen's lawyers demanded full disclosure from the prosecution in preparation for their appeal.

Foreign Office sources said last night that in 1990, when Mr Mullen was convicted, disclosure rules did not entitle the defence to see any papers relating to the intelligence services. So the role of MI6 in bringing Mr Mullen back to Britain was never disclosed in court. Mr Mullen's freedom yesterday immediately focused attention on which Conservative government minister had approved the illegal actions of MI6 between 1988 and 1989.

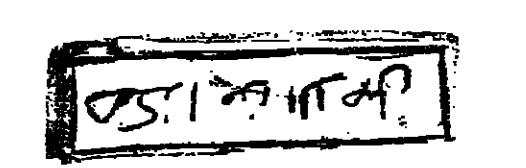
Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary at the time, was unavailable for comment last night.

JOHN STILLWELL

Nicholas Mullen greets his supporters as he and his daughter Jessica leave the Court of Appeal yesterday







Islanders hope £700,000 grant will woo wives

European cash will create jobs to attract women back to Outer Hebrides, writes Gillian Harris

REMOTE Hebridean island communities — "bachelor country" to the locals — are to receive European funding to attract potential wives.

The grant of £711,000 will be spent on creating jobs that appeal to women so that they will be encouraged to settle on the islands. Women have been steadily abandoning the area that stretches from the tip of North Uist to the tail of Benbecula: there are 1,386 of them to 2,064 men.

Colin Campbell, an unmarried, retired army major who lives on Benbecula, admits that the lifestyle discourages many women. He has to hike across a boggy moor to reach his remote farmhouse, transport shopping half a mile by wheelbarrow and grapple with an outdoor shower once blown away in a gale. "Only a brave girl would come here," he said.

It is hoped that the grant, from the European LIFE programme, will alleviate the plight of the terminally single. A spokeswoman for the agency that will distribute the money, said: "The number of women who leave the islands has become a very important demographic issue. A large part of our objective is to increase employment opportunities and create scope for women to find work on the islands."

One of the scheme's priorities is to preserve the traditional Hebridean way of life: crofting and fishing, which employ the bulk of unmarried men, could die out if there are no young people to take over.

The islands, with their inhospitable climate, lack of amenities and limited social life, have always found it hard to hold on to women. The majority of female school leavers attend college or university on the mainland and many never go back.

One woman who returned to North Uist after four years at Glasgow University said: "After being away you realise how hard life is here. There are hardly any shops, no cinema and nothing much to do. You have to get back into an island mind-set, accepting what it's like, and lots of women are not willing to do that."

Now there is a feeling that the issue must be addressed. Isabel MacDonald, the area manager of Western Isles Enterprise, said: "Young women leaving has had an impact on the islands. There are great tracts of land populated by bachelors. Quite a few took over their crofts from their parents and have never married."

Tracking down the bachelors is not easy. They are a shy and elusive breed with a pathological fear of being photographed. Years of living alone have taken their toll and many look horrified at the prospect of women invading their territory.

According to Uisdean Robertson, 47, who works for Western Isles Council, bachelors like himself are not looking for wives. "We've never been particularly bothered by it and I've certainly never heard anyone complain about it. In my era there was not much going on socially on the island so we just stayed at home reading or watching television. Anyway, having so many single men keeps the divorce rate down. Men don't miss having women around. Myself, I'd rather have a bar of chocolate."

However Mr Campbell, 64, who went to Benbecula in 1972, believes there is an underlying sense of loss. "There is not a bachelor I know, including myself, who would say he deliberately wants to be a bachelor. Most of them would very much like to be married but they have not met anyone."

Mr Campbell, a councillor who runs a croft and fishes for shellfish, believes there is a macho side to island life that puts women off. "It's a bit like the Wild West in some respects," he said. "Men gather in the pub for a few drams and to chat among themselves. But there will be no women in the pub at all.

"Hotel bars are the only meeting place, or the churches. Although I understand there are more social functions being held nowadays, so that might help."

It remains to be seen whether an influx of women will be welcome. Mr Campbell said: "Men on the islands are proud of their traditions. They don't always take to new things."

Leading article, page 23

MIKE WILKINSON



Colin Campbell, with his dog, Jess, has lived on Benbecula since 1972. He says most of the bachelors, including himself, would like to be married

The weather can dampen romance

THE Outer Hebrides is one of the wettest places in Britain, with an average annual rainfall of 1,171 millimetres, and one of the windiest.

The best that can be said about the climate is that it is mild. Snow and ice rarely affect the islands, which are warmed by the Gulf Stream.

Women contemplating a move to the islands should bear in mind that the weather can play havoc with transport. The daily air service to Glasgow is frequently disrupted during the winter, and in stormy weather the ferry remains in port. Venues for romantic dates are limited. The nearest cinema is more than 100 miles away in Inverness. Getting there involves driving to North Uist, catching a ferry to Harris, another drive to Stornoway, a four-hour ferry journey to Ullapool and then an hour's drive to Inverness.

OUTER HEBRIDES
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Benbecula
The Little Minch
10 miles

The Uists have shops that sell food, newspapers and household goods, but any shoppers in search of high street names such as Jigsaw, Body Shop and French Connection have to catch a plane to Glasgow, at a cost of more than £200 return.

There is a handful of hairdressers on the islands, but the nearest salon is in Inverness, which is also the location of the nearest department store selling beauty products.

The islands have a limited number of bars and restaurants, serving Hebridean food, including shellfish, salmon and game. Most are closed on Sundays, however.

Nursery babies beat allergies

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

BABIES from small families who are sent to day nurseries before they are a year old are far less likely to develop allergies in later life, researchers have discovered.

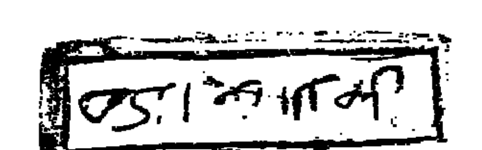
The study of nearly 2,500 children also found that those from families with four children or more were not as susceptible to allergies as they grew older.

The number of children who develop allergies has increased in recent years and one suspected reason is a decline in exposure to infections in early life.

The study, reported in *The Lancet* today, was carried out in three towns in eastern Germany between September 1992 and August 1993. The children were divided into three age groups — five to seven, eight to ten and 11 to 14. The parents were asked at what age they sent their children to nursery and also questioned about whether they smoked, used coal fires or gas and whether their homes were damp, situated on noisy streets or had fitted carpets.

The researchers, from Heinrich Heine University at Düsseldorf, then carried out tests to discover if the children were allergic to a range of irritants from grass to cat fur.

Among children from small families, the proportion of allergy-related conditions was found to increase in direct relation to the age the child went to a nursery. The older the child was when first sent to the nursery, the more likely it was to be allergic.



School orchestras face the music

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

HUNDREDS of schools in England and Wales have lost their orchestras because they have no one to run them, according to a study published yesterday.

Although the five-year survey showed that more children are learning an instrument than in 1993, fewer can go on to group performance. Whereas two thirds of pupils could previously join an orchestra run by their school or local authority, the proportion is now just over half.

Andrew Potter, chairman of the Performing Rights Society, which sponsored the survey, said many parents drew the line at paying for orchestra practices as well as individual tuition. But the prime cause of the decline was the loss of peripatetic music teachers, who often organised group playing.

The survey showed that one school in five had stopped taking local authority music services since gaining full budget control. The Government has promised an extra £180 million to restore free tuition in schools.

Almost 30 per cent of pupils received some form of music tuition and the study showed a wider range of instruments on offer. Percentage of schools offering instrumental tuition: woodwind 76; strings 75; brass 67; acoustic guitar 54; recorder 54; percussion 53; saxophone 47; piano 44; electronic keyboards 40; electric guitar 32.

Disabled rider may amputate arm to compete

A change in the rules will exclude talented dressage competitor from top flight, reports Michael Harvey

A TALENTED disabled rider is considering having her arm amputated to comply with a rule change banning her from top-level dressage competitions.

Debbie Criddle, who has a disabled arm, took part in last year's national championships. But British Dressage, the sport's governing body, has introduced rules effectively excluding her from regional and national finals.

The new rules state that riders must keep two hands on the reins at all times. No "auxiliary means", such as special tack, are allowed.

Mrs Criddle, 32, from Stogumber, Somerset, believes the only way she can continue to take part at the highest level of the sport is to have her disabled right upper arm removed and an artificial arm and hand fitted.

The sport involves the rider taking the horse through a series of precise movements. The new rules were intended to comply with international regulations.

Mrs Criddle said: "When the new rulebook came out, it was a real blow. I have had dispensation to ride with able-bodied riders since 1990. I don't understand why riders in my position should be denied the chance to compete at regional and national level."

She told *Horse and Hound* magazine that she had already sought medical advice about having her upper arm removed so that she can have a full artificial arm fitted.

Yesterday the Sports Council and the Riding for the Disabled Association said they were considering what action to take over the new rules. British Dressage said that it was urgently reviewing its new rules in a bid to "resolve the situation in the most sensible and reasonable way". A meeting will take place next week between the three bodies.

> ‘Rules state that riders must keep two hands on the reins at all times’

British Dressage said it had been an unwritten rule that riders had to have two hands on the reins in accordance with the international governing body's rules. A spokeswoman said that, until this year, individual dispensations were given to disabled riders to allow them to compete with other riders.

No mention was made of not being allowed to compete at regional and national level as it was thought there were no disabled riders of a high enough standard. All British Dressage had done was to clarify the point in its new rule book, she said.

The spokeswoman said: "Clearly these rules can present problems to people who wish to compete but who, for physical reasons, are unable to comply. Last year a lady who was unable to comply fully with British Dressage rules qualified for and competed in the National Championships.

"We admire and applaud anyone able to compete with the best despite their disablities, but the situation caused British Dressage to re-examine its rules," she added.

Linda Whetstone, rules committee chairwoman at British Dressage, said the organisation had done a great deal to support disabled riders, and added: "It is not fair that British Dressage should be vilified when it has done more than any other discipline to help these people. Every sport has to have rules in order to operate."

Last year British Dressage received £141,532 from the National Lottery and £25,000 from the Sports Council.

Ann Cutcliffe, chairman of Riding for the Disabled dressage, said an approach to the international governing body, the FEI, might be necessary. "We are going to look at this rule to see if the FEI ruling is being interpreted in the right way. This is no one's fault, this is a rule that we have known existed for some time. It is just that only recently our riders have leapt forward and are now of a standard to reach the finals."

The Sports Council said it was investigating the matter but refused to condemn the rule change. A spokesman said: "We are here to encourage equal opportunities and would say to the sport's governing body that it should be doing everything it can to allow disabled people to compete alongside the able-bodied."

Riding for the Disabled pointed out that British Dressage had staged regional competitions for disabled dressage riders and ran the finals as part of its national championships last year.

Debbie Criddle, who has competed at national level

Clarke supports Premier League's TV deal

By Adrian Lee

MANY football clubs could go out of business if the top few were allowed to negotiate television rights on the open market, Kenneth Clarke, the former Conservative Chancellor, told a court yesterday.

The current £743 million deal between the Premier League, the BBC and BSkyB (which is 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*) resulted in a fairer redistribution of wealth, said Mr Clarke, a keen Nottingham Forest fan. The 20 Premiership clubs receive the bulk of the money, leaving the clubs in lower leagues to share £50 million.

Mr Clarke said that, if clubs were allowed to arrange their own deals, the money would be concentrated in the elite. He was speaking for the Premier League, which is resisting legal moves by the Director-General of Fair Trading to outlaw the television deal on the ground that it is anti-competitive.

Mr Clarke told the Restrictive Practices Court in London that he was a lifelong supporter of Forest and watched live, but never televised, games. He admitted he was a believer in free-market economics, but said he wanted so see the smaller clubs "have a decent crack of the whip" and that meant that they should receive a share of the revenues.

If the collective deal was ruled unlawful, English football could be dominated by a handful of clubs who would see the Premiership as an entry to the more lucrative European competitions, he added. The hearing continues.

Thrill-seekers look up to Portsmouth

By Mark Henderson

THE world's highest freefall ride, which will drop passengers at 110mph, will open in Portsmouth next year as part of the city's plans to rival the waterfronts of Sydney and San Francisco.

The ride will be built on the city's Millennium Tower, a sail-shaped structure that will be higher than the BT Tower in London.

A lift seating eight will climb to 350ft before plummeting in freefall, reaching a top speed of 110mph in a descent lasting four to five seconds. The ride will be so fast that a coin held flat in the hand will lift into mid-air.

Visitors without the stomach for such thrills will be able to visit one of three viewing platforms at the top of the 500ft tower.

It will be part of Gunwharf Quays, a £100 million scheme by Berkeley Group, which will include homes and factory shopping. There will also be a marina that will host the start and finish of *The Times* Clipper 2000 round-the-world yacht race, of which the developer is a sponser.

Robert Tincknell, of Berkeley Group, said that the millennium projects would turn Portsmouth into a "must-see" city for international tourists. "Portsmouth harbour has been shut off for 800 years. Now it's going to help to regenerate the city," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two men remanded over boy

Two men appeared in court yesterday accused of killing a 16-year-old schoolboy whose body was found in a canal. Peter Andrew Barker, 32, and Darren Colling, 28, both from Sale, Manchester, were charged at Exeter Magistrates' Court with the murder of George Mortimer in Exeter last weekend.

David Bowen, for the prosecution, applied for the two to be remanded for a week. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted during the 13-minute hearing.

The charges come after the discovery of the teenager's body in reedbeds at a beauty spot on the 400-year-old Exeter Ship Canal on Tuesday. He died from head injuries.

Killer Briton

Martin Smith, 30, a British fashion photographer, has admitted slitting a man's throat in a Miami Beach bar on Sunday, police have confirmed. He is expected in court to face a charge of first-degree murder on February 22.

Smoke alarm

Vegetable-based cigarettes to help people to give up smoking may be harmful, a study at the University of Austria, Vienna, has found. They can lead to as much exposure to carbon monoxide as tobacco ones, *The Lancet* reports.

Cromwell snub

Members of St Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Oliver Cromwell's home town, Huntingdon, are refusing to attend an ecumenical service marking the 400th anniversary of his birth. Many of the congregation are of Irish origin.

Aitken bail stays

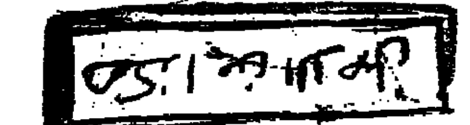
Jonathan Aitken, the former Tory minister who has admitted perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice, withdrew an application to alter his bail conditions. He had been expected to ask for the return of his passport.

£16,500 claret

A 200-year-old bottle of Château-Lafite Rothschild fetched £16,500 including premium at a Christie's wine sale in London. The 1799 vintage was described at a tasting 20 years ago as: "Dry, lightish yet still a bit of meatiness."

Cellphone hoax

A Nottingham firm was inundated with callers after a hacker used the Internet to send a hoax message to 30,000 cellular telephone screens saying they had won a car and to ring the firm. A Doncaster man, 22, is due in court next month.



Elvis leaves Hackney all shook up

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

AFTER 17 years in a terraced house in East London, Elvis is leaving.

A dispute with Hackney council over non-payment of £18,000 in business rates has concluded in the closure of the memorabilia shop Elvisly Yours.

Sid Shaw, the entrepreneurial owner who opened the first Western supermarket in Russia in 1992, said yesterday: "I have fought the Graceland mafia, the Russian mafia and now I'm fighting the Hackney mafia."

As he spoke Leyton Summors, an Elvis impersonator from Manchester, climbed a stepladder in the rhinestone jumpsuit he saves for special occasions to hammer the "For Sale" sign onto the premises' outside wall.

Hackney council said yesterday that if Mr Shaw continued to fail to pay the bill, he would be taken to court and means-tested by magistrates. Further non-payment could even result in a 90-day jail sentence.

A spokesman said: "No other company in Hackney has had four arrangements to pay rates and then broken them. We have very little trouble with businesses here but he is in a world of his own."

Only the premises are for sale as Mr Shaw intends to carry on the business from his shop in West London.

The freehold on the ground, basement and upper floors of the Shoreditch property is priced at £395,000. It could be split, with the ground floor and basement priced at £195,000 and the upper floors at £235,000.

Mr Shaw has yet to shut up shop completely, and stepping inside Elvisly Yours it is still possible to buy Elvis replica sunglasses for £7.95, soap and dish sets for £4.95 and a 1,000-piece Elvis jigsaw for £7.95.

Mr Shaw, who has run the mail-order side of his business from the shop, also sells Elvis tapestries, silk jackets with Elvis logos and a collection of vintage magazines and postcards.

The area around the shop has changed considerably since Mr Shaw moved in in 1982. The singer Jarvis Cocker and the fashion designer Alexander McQueen, who live on Haberdasher Street and Curtain Road, are two of a group of stars whose presence is said to have helped to boost house prices.

James Goff, a chartered surveyor for the estate agents Stirling Ackroyd, said: "The building is likely to become more Manhattan style than Memphis as it has planning permission to be converted into loft flats. The ground floor may become a bar but it will be up to the owners to decide whether it will be Elvis-themed."

He added that the property was "sensibly priced and should sell quickly".

Mr Shaw said: "Around the world Hackney is known not for bad schools, crime and poverty but because it is the home of an Elvis Presley shrine called Elvisly Yours."

Not for much longer.



RICHARD POHLE

Leyton Summors, an Elvis impersonator from Manchester, climbed a ladder to hammer the for-sale sign to the wall

TOP OF THE PROPS

1 Sunglasses
2 Magic Elvis mug
3 Flags
4 Tapestry
5 Postcards
6 Soap
7 Books
8 Diamante Elvis necklace and brooch
9 Bank of Scotland "Elvisly Yours" credit card
10 Jigsaw puzzle

Channel 4 bans producer who faked scenes

BY JOANNA BALE

CHANNEL 4 is facing a substantial fine after admitting yesterday that a documentary about young male prostitutes contained scenes that were faked. Men shown negotiating to pay for sex were part of the production team or their friends.

The channel has put an indefinite ban on giving more work to Maire Devine, the independent producer of the documentary, called *Too Much Too Young: Chickens*. But it still faces an investigation by the Independent Television Commission.

The commission recently fined Central Television, which is owned by Carlton, £2 million after it emerged that scenes in a drugs documentary, *The Connection*, were faked. Another Channel 4 documentary, *Daddy's Girl*, was pulled from the schedules a day before transmission when it was found that the makers had been tricked by a young couple who posed as father and daughter.

Channel 4 initially defended *Too Much Too Young: Chickens* and Ms Devine against allegations of fabrication, but reversed its stance after an internal investigation. A Channel 4 spokesman said: "The film contained three scenes that purported secretly to record the activities of rent boys and their clients on the streets of Glasgow. They were in fact constructed sequences using members of the production team to act the part of the clients."

Tim Gardam, Channel 4's director of programmes, said: "Our procedures are robust, but no procedures are proof against deliberate and organised deception." A spokesman for the commission said: "Viewers have a right to expect that anything they see on a factual programme has been properly vetted."

The Channel 4 investigation began after allegations of fabrication were made in a series about television documentaries presented by the *Times* columnist Matthew Parris on Radio 5 Live.

Ms Devine's one-woman production company, Basement Productions, in Glasgow, was dissolved last year. She was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Lack of pride spells curtains for suburbia

Friendly bombs needed to blast away soulless wastelands, Alexandra Frean reports

THE tree-lined streets of suburbia are in danger of sinking into decay, with soulless wastelands replacing the archetype of urban family life, according to the Civic Trust.

While concern has been focused on improving the inner cities, similar problems have beset the suburbs, a report by the trust says. Boarded-up shops, poor public transport, traffic congestion and declining community facilities all point to their decline.

The blame is put partly on the very image of the suburbs, which are home to 60 per cent of the population: rows of identical houses need to be punctuated by open space, the report says.

Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust and a co-author of the report, said: "While it is understandable that much discussion about urban renewal has been focused on inner cities, the lack of analysis and debate about suburban areas is disturbing.

"Some parts of the suburbs need early attention if they are to avoid becoming tomorrow's problems."

Mr Gwilliam said that significant improvements to suburban life could be achieved without enormous public investment. Simply changing bus routes and timetables, so that people could go where they wanted when they wanted, would reduce traffic congestion. Bus stops should also be repositioned to locations that better suited passengers.

He also advocated the construction of more houses or flats with views across "green lakes" of open land.

Corinne Swaine, co-author of the report, said that drastic "suburban surgery", such as demolition and rebuilding, was not necessary to achieve suburban regeneration. Far more important, she argued, was encouraging greater community participation in the way that suburbs were run and built.

"If you can get people's pride back into the area through persuading them to get more involved with community projects, then this will act as a catalyst for self-improvement. People will do more DIY and more improvements on the housing stock," she said.

The report is based on an analysis of suburbs in North Bristol, Redbridge in East London, West Northfield in Birmingham, and North Tyneside. The authors say, however, that their findings could apply to most suburban areas in England.

The report says that "suburban areas can provide a monotonous physical environment with a lack of distinctive character, particularly where the centre is not based on a historic core".

It recommends more mixed land use, the transformation of empty shops into homes and greater community involvement in planning decisions.

It suggests the creation of "urban parishes", modelled on rural parishes, with powers to raise a modest parish rate to be spent on community projects. A national community chest should also be established, it says, to support community development with money from the National Lottery's New Opportunity Fund.

The suburbs grew as a result of a middle-class rejection of inner-city living. The aspiration to an arcadian, semi-detached lifestyle was strong in the interwar years.

The report argues, however, that, by their very nature, suburbs are inherently self-destructive. Because they rely on employment in an adjoining, but distinct, city or town, they are vulnerable to economic change, such as the closure of a factory. When this happens, the wealthiest residents tend to move out, leaving the poorest and most vulnerable groups behind.

High levels of car dependency and lack of pedestrian access, including subways that force pedestrians to walk several hundred metres to cross a road, reduce social contact.

The report says that, because they tend to have a relatively low population density, suburbs are ecologically unsustainable, too, consuming vast tracts of land and energy.

The report was produced jointly by the Civic Trust and Ove Arup and was funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.



The new suburbs offered an escape from the inner city


Ronald and Irene Hiatt in the West Northfield road where they have lived for 40 years. "We were much safer when I was a young man," he says

The neighbourhood that fell apart

Peter Foster talks to the residents of a 'leafy suburb'

WHEN Ronald Hiatt arrived in Northfield as a seven-year-old in 1929 he found a village with two blacksmiths surrounded by fields and acres of private land belonging to the Cadbury family.

Seventy years later, sitting in the semi-detached house that he bought with his wife, Irene, in the 1950s, the social and physical landscape has changed. He has watched a village that merited mention in the Domesday Book become part of Birmingham suburbia, where tidy semis rub shoulders with crumbling council tower blocks.

In 1959 Mr Hiatt, a retired factory manager, could leave home without locking his back door, and milk and bread left on his doorstep would be safe. Today he has an electronic alarm system and security lights mounted on the front of his house. His neighbours have been burgled twice in the past five years and his wife does not like to go out alone after dark.

Mr Hiatt believes that the social changes of the past 40 years have had a big impact on his quality of life. "We were much safer when I was a young man. Today there are gangs of youngsters about and while most of them are okay, you can never be sure. Sometimes ten-year-olds are out till late at night playing football outside the house but if you ask them to go they are full of vile language."

Mrs Hiatt, 64, said: "Women go out to work when they used to be at home looking after the kids, keeping an eye on the neighbourhood."

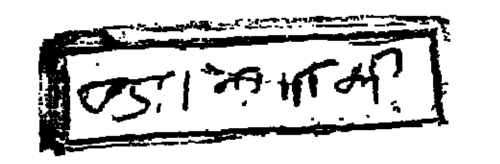
Modern commercial pressures have also changed suburbs such as West Northfield. Two doors down from the Hiatts, Kathleen Beall, 78, says: "There used to be a ladies' hair-dresser, a family butcher, a grocer's and an ironmonger's which everyone used to go to. Now they're mostly Chinese and Indian take-aways and people leave their cartons and wrappers all over the place. People don't take the pride they used to."

Cars, although the Longbridge Rover factory only a few miles down the road is West Northfield's economic lifeblood, are also blamed for depersonalising the area. Notices pinned to the copper beech and cherry trees warn children it is an offence under the Highways Act for them to play near the residential road. Once, adds Mrs Beall, the road was a space for living but today it belongs to the speeding cars that use it as a rat run.

Ten minutes' walk from the rows of neat inter-war housing of the "leafy suburbs" are several 1970s tower blocks where unemployment reaches over 30 per cent, single-parent families are the norm and residents have security grills on downstairs windows. A car burns here every night, according to one resident. Brett Randall, 26, his girlfriend, Emma Wilding, 23, and their one-month-old son have a very different view of West Northfield.

"This is Birmingham's Beirut," Mr Randall says. "This place is full of drug addicts and gangs. We get people knocking at the door wanting to sell drugs, or young lads offering everything from TVs and videos to lawnmowers and power tools."

Mr Randall, a self-employed builder, and Ms Wilding, a care assistant at a nursing home, would move if they could afford it. They are in no doubt about what needs to be done to rescue the area: "They have got to knock it all down and start again."



The end is nigh for a chance of peace

The problem is clear; the solution is not, reports Martin Fletcher

IT IS rare that Northern Ireland's security chiefs and republican leaders agree, but both say that Gerry Adams cannot deliver IRA disarmament, and if he tried he would split that lethal organisation.

Instead of tiny splinter groups such as the Real and Continuity IRAs, the Province would suddenly face any number of well-armed, out-of-control republicans bent on resuming the armed struggle.

Unionists and Dublin do not often concur either but David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister, has convinced Bertie Ahern's Government of another stark fact. If he admits Sinn Fein to a new executive without first achieving IRA disarmament he will be ousted as the Ulster Unionist Party's leader and the Good Friday accord will be finished.

The peace process is now facing its ultimate test. There are just weeks left to resolve the impossible issue of decommissioning which has for five years been kicked down the road by dint of fudge and ambiguity. That road has finally run out, and nobody in London, Dublin or Belfast has any idea what to do.

This political vacuum has been filled, as it always is in Northern Ireland, by an upsurge in violence. The IRA and its loyalist counterparts have engaged in a spate of brutal "punishment attacks" to keep control of their communities. Last week Eamon Collins, the IRA defector, was stabbed and bludgeoned to death by former colleagues. On Sunday Paddy Fox, an IRA dissenter, was abducted and beaten.

A loyalist splinter group called the Red Hand Defenders has mounted bomb attacks on half a dozen Roman Catholic homes in the past fortnight.



PAUL FAITH

Graffiti on a wall in republican Andersontown, Belfast, reflects staunch opposition to decommissioning; Sinn Fein insists it is unnecessary anyway

On Wednesday night the Ulster Volunteer Force claimed to have imported a fresh consignment of weapons including an anti-tank gun.

The resurgence of punishment attacks has greatly complicated efforts to break the decommissioning deadlock. Unionists and Conservatives have seized on them as evidence that republicans remain wedded to violence and are more adamant than ever that the republican movement prove its conversion to exclusively democratic means by disarming. The attacks have thus made compromise by Mr Trimble still more impossible.

They have also shredded Westminster's valuable bipartisan consensus on Northern Ireland, the Tories demanding that all prisoner releases be halted.

The climactic act of the peace process begins on February 15 when the Assembly approves the structure of the 12-member executive. The Government hopes to transfer power to the executive on March 10 but without IRA disarmament Mr Trimble will instead order a government review of Sinn Fein's compliance with the accord's insistence on "exclusively peaceful and democratic means" and "opposition to any use or threat of force".

If the executive is not formed by May 22 Ireland's referendum vote to abolish its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland lapses. By early summer the Province would be plunged into a new marching season when inflamed sectarian tensions render political progress impossible. At some point the IRA's hardmen would give up on politics.

Mr Adams and Mr Trimble have led their respective followers as far as they can towards the centre ground but even after 17 months of direct contact the fundamental problems remain the inability to understand each other, and not just a lack of trust but a presumption of bad faith.

Mr Trimble's camp insists he has done everything required of him by the accord. He has accepted prisoner releases, cross-border bodies, commissions on policing and equality and the principle of Sinn Fein in government.

Sinn Fein leaders insist that actual decommissioning is impossible and the accord does not demand it. They say the IRA considers it a demand for surrender and an attempt to "criminalise" republicans by implying they alone were responsible for 30 years of horror. They believe that if the accord is implemented, decommissioning will eventually become either possible or irrelevant and they cannot believe the process will collapse over the difference between guns being destroyed or lying silent.

Everyone insists the process has come far too far to fail now, but nobody can see how to save it.

Leading article and Letters, page 23

IRA says it will recover all stolen weapons

By Martin Fletcher
Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA pledged yesterday to continue its search for weapons stolen by defectors until it had recovered them all.

In a statement it said that a "small amount of weaponry" had been "secretly misappropriated" by those who had left to form the Real IRA in late 1997. These defectors included its Quartermaster General, the man in charge of the IRA's arsenal, and several members of its "engineering" or bomb-making department.

The IRA said it had recovered "some but not all of the stolen weapons" and would carry on. It also claimed that some of the defectors had visited the homes of IRA supporters "in an attempt to derail our investigations". Stealing weapons is an offence punishable by death under IRA rules.

Some republican sources suggested that it was IRA members taking part in the hunt who abducted Paddy Fox, a prominent dissident, on Sunday. Fox, a convicted bomber who opposes Sinn Fein's peace strategy, told Channel 4 last night that he was beaten unconscious and woke up several hours later in a forest.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, suggested that the IRA was trying to distance itself from attacks carried out with known IRA weapons.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Andrew Mackay, her Tory shadow, both said that the IRA statement reinforced the case for the decommissioning of all paramilitary weapons. In her search for an end to the deadlock, Dr Mowlam has had meetings this week with Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister. She will also meet all the Province's parties over the coming days.

Charges fell for lack of evidence

By Audrey Magee, Ireland Correspondent

MURDER charges against four men who killed an Irish policeman in an IRA raid on a post office van were dropped because of insufficient evidence, a court in Dublin was told yesterday.

The state made the admission after public outrage in Ireland that the four, who include the Brixton prison escaper Pearse McCauley, had admitted a lesser charge of manslaughter. Edward Comyn, for the prosecution, said the state could not prove that the men intended to kill Detective Jerry McCabe during the raid in Adare, Co Limerick, in June 1996. McCauley said through his barrister yesterday that he "deeply regretted" the officer's death.

The decision to drop murder charges led to accusations from Opposition politicians that the Government was pandering to the IRA to ensure the continuation of the peace process. However, Bertie Ahern, the Prime Minister, said that the judiciary was acting independently and that the men would not be granted early release under the terms of the Good Friday agreement.

Legal sources said one of the reasons the case fell apart was because witnesses were scared to give evidence against McCauley, 34, from Strabane, Co Tyrone, and Jeremiah Sheehy, 36, Michael O'Neill, 46, and Kevin Walsh, 42, from Co Limerick. Patrick Harty, a farmer, refused to testify and was jailed for contempt for 18 months. Two other witnesses also backed out.

Mr Comyn said that it had not been possible to determine which of the gang killed Mr McCabe, although police believe it was not McCauley.

McCauley still faces possible extradition to England on charges of conspiracy to murder, possession of firearms and conspiracy to cause explosions. He escaped from Brixton prison in July 1991.

He was arrested in Dublin in April 1993 and jailed for seven years for having a gun and ammunition. He was freed in November 1995 as part of the early release scheme after the first IRA ceasefire, but was rearrested as he left jail.







An artist's impressions of the rejuvenated garden, which will feature fountains, waterfalls and canals, a grass labyrinth and hedges of rosebushes



The Duchess of Northumberland on the site of old Italian walled garden yesterday

Duchess makes Internet appeal for £15m garden

Paul Wilkinson on plan to transform Alnwick Castle

THE Duchess of Northumberland is seeking £15 million in sponsorship to help create one of the most spectacular gardens in the world.

The Percy family plans to transform a derelict 12-acre walled garden in the grounds of its ancestral home at Alnwick Castle, in Northumberland. The duchess said yesterday that the proposed cost of the project, which has tripled in the 18 months since the idea germinated, was justified.

"The initial concept of the garden has totally changed. It has snowballed into a vast public project," she said. "We have given 40 acres of previously private ground and have committed £3 million. We have spent £750,000 reaching this point, and we are now ready to look for sponsorship.

"We cannot take one penny from this garden, but we will have had a unique opportunity of creating a garden ... which we hope will be one of the greatest in the world."

The garden is being created by the Belgian father-and-son partnership of Jacques and Peter Wirtz, which designed the £25 million redevelopment of grounds at the Tuileries, the former royal palace in Paris. Paul Robbrecht will design a pavilion that will include a function room, shop and restaurant.

Up to 26 acres will be used for formal gardens, with the remainder to be landscaped. The site is close the the castle, which has been home to the Percy family, whose ancestors include Harry Hotspur, since 1309. The original walled garden at the heart of the plan was built in 1750 by the 1st Duke and his wife. By 1856 the entire walled garden was planted, lawned and landscaped.

The 4th Duke opened it to the public, but by the end of the First World War it was starting to decline and during the Second World War was turned over to growing food in the Dig For Victory campaign. In 1953 the once-impressive glasshouse was dismantled and the eastern end of the garden became a tree nursery.

The duchess's plan is to build a new garden using features of the original. Pools and fountains will remain a major featire, along with waterfalls and miniature canals among pavilions and hedges of rosebushes. It is expected to open to the public by 2001.

The walled garden as painted in the 1920s

The duchess said that she had not applied for National Lottery money because she had been advised that it was a "creation, not a restoration project". The European Regional Development Fund has, however, given £300,000 as the development will create 30 new full and part-time jobs on the estate. The duchess' management consultants estimate that up to 75 more could be created in the Alnwick area and 200 across the region.

Yesterday the duchess turned to the Internet to appeal for donations to help her restore the site to its former glory. Launching the website, The Invisible Gardens (www.alnwickgarden.com), she said: "This is to be a classical garden, created by one of the leading garden designers in the world.

"We have searched worldwide for experts in their field and we are creating a place of beauty and learning for the benefit of everyone and something of which the North East can be proud."

The idea of developing the garden came to the duchess, Jane Percy, soon after her husband, Ralph, the 12th Duke, inherited the title in 1995 on the death of his brother, Harry, who was worth an estimated £250 million. Until then they had lived with their four children managing the family's vast estates.

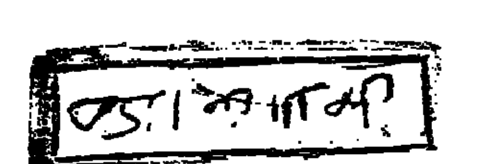
The duchess said: "I knew the old garden well. It was neglected and sad and in the process of being turned into a car park. But even then, standing at the top or bottom of the garden, I had a clear vision of how beautiful it could be."

It will include a garden of the senses for the visually impaired, a garden of poisonous plants, a fruit and vegetable allotment, a grass labyrinth and a water garden with dancing jets.

Peter Wirtz said: "It will take a few months to work out this project technically. The complexity of integrating the water technology and the challenge to phase and time the construction in harmony with the seasons will certainly cause some headaches in the future," he said.

The Prince of Wales is patron of the scheme. When the proposal was first unveiled in June 1997 he said: "In seeking to recapture the lost world of this great garden, and sharing it with others, the present Duchess of Northumberland is taking up once more the innovative ideas so brilliantly demonstrated in previous generations."





Hague weds the Tories to marriage

Traditional family at heart of policymaking, report Philip Webster and Mark Henderson

WILLIAM HAGUE promised yesterday to use the tax and benefit system to support the institution of marriage.

As he launched National Marriage Week with his wife Ffion at his side, the Tory leader said that a party committee under Peter Lilley, his deputy, had been formed to put the traditional family at the heart of policymaking.

Casting aside the caution that has marked Conservative family policy since the collapse of the back-to-basics campaign, Mr Hague said that politicans could not ignore the impact which the breakdown of marriage had on society.

"No-one who cares about the future of this country can ignore the importance of marriage and the family to the social fabric of our nation or the pressures which so many families face today," he said.

He confirmed that the Tories are considering a plan to allow couples to transfer unused tax allowances to each other if one of them is not working and looking after a child or invalid relative. And he attacked the Government for eroding the married couples' allowance. Its abolition would mean "an end to the last reocognition of marriage in the tax system".

"Our society has found something which lowers the crime rate, increases people's chances of finding work, improves their education and contributes to their happiness and well-being.

"That institution is called marriage. It is perhaps the most important institution in our society. We are right to believe in it."

The decision by Tory strategists to concentrate on marriage comes after they found that the issue registered strongly with voters during their Listening to Britain exercise.

Mr Hague also unveiled the secrets of a successful marriage as he sees them — sharing everything and keeping Sundays sacred, at least as far as Sir David Frost will let him.

"We've only recently celebrated our first wedding anniversary, so I don't claim to be a great expert on marriage," Mr Hague said. "But we've found that little things have helped to make this the happiest year of our lives.

"We have certainly discovered that it's important to make time for each other. Both Ffion and I have demanding jobs that take us around the country but we try to have Sundays to ourselves, at least as far as David Frost, Jonathan Dimbleby and John Humphrys permit it."

He said they had also found it crucial to be open about their feelings — "not a bad lesson for any politician". "Whether we've had a good day or a bad day we don't bottle things up. And if we disagree about something we talk about it." Arriving at the launch at Westminster Register Office — where both Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr tied the knot — the Hagues found themselves guests of honour at a mock wedding reception.

And in the best traditions of an English wedding, it was the groom who did all the talking. Mrs Hague remained tight lipped about her experiences of marriage.

Mr Hague said his wedding "underneath the office" in the crypt of the Palace of Westminster "may not sound very romantic". Nevertheless, it was the most inspiring and nerve-racking occasion he had experienced there. "Prime Minister's Questions is a doddle compared with getting married in the Palace, particularly as I had to learn my vows in Welsh," he said.

Political sex scandals — such as the fall of Tom Spencer, the married Tory MEP who was caught with homosexual pornography — would not make him flinch from strong public support for marriage, he said. "Politicians of all parties have been afraid to take a stand on marriage because they are terrified that the next day the tabloids will be full of stories about colleagues who have been caught doing something inconsistent with marriage . . . All of us must be able to speak out."

Diary, page 22

BEN GURR



William Hague and his wife Ffion launching National Marriage Week at Westminster Register Office yesterday

A LIFETIME TOGETHER

A couple were yesterday confirmed as Britain's longest-married living pair after 78 years and 190 days together. Michael and Catherine Brady, who tied the knot on July 29, 1920, said the secret was always to put their family first. The day before they walked down the aisle of St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church in Manchester, Lloyd George had urged the USA to join the fledgling League of Nations. In Russia, Lenin's Communist forces were driving out foreign troops and London's first police cars were replacing horses. Mr Brady, 98, and his 104-year-old wife now share a room in a nursing home in Middlesbrough. Their record-breaking marriage was authenticated yesterday by the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Fraud 'in third of benefit claims'

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a third of Family Credit payments in an official study involved actual or possible fraud, it was disclosed yesterday.

The findings had been suppressed by the Government but were published by the Commons Social Security Select Committee. They raised fears that the new Working Family Tax Credit could be open to even wider abuse.

Frank Field, the former Minister for Welfare Reform, gave warning last year that employers and staff could get together to defraud the new system.

Family Credit is a means-tested benefit which goes to working families on low incomes but is paid direct to the mother by girocheque. It is to be replaced by Working Family Tax Credit in October.

The study showed that 123 out of 326 cases involved possible or actual fraud. Confirmed fraud was found in 32 cases and low or high suspicion of fraud in 91. Most were related to false declaration of earnings, but others involved those wrongly claiming as a single parent, undeclared capital or other income, and children not in full-time education.

The Government had warned the committee that it never intended to release the findings because the sample was too small and not statistically valid.



Short-changed by our approach to the euro

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Government's public policy on the euro is increasingly unconvincing. The Treasury talks as if it is a board of examiners assessing whether Gordon Brown's five tests have been met, before deciding in "the national interest" whether or not Britain joins at some unspecified date. The implicit assumption is that the rest of Europe will wait patiently. In his interview with *The Times* on Tuesday, Stephen Byers reiterated this line — presumably in order not to get ahead of the current Treasury line. He even suggested that Labour could go into the next election with this policy, without stating its preference, since he doubted that the tests would have been met by then.

Privately, neither the Blair circle nor Robin Cook and the Foreign Office believe that Labour can campaign in the election without declaring its own view. The five tests are seen as subjective measures which can be reinterpreted when necessary.

The only test that matters is convergence of interest rates. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee is, at present, guided by a domestic inflation target rather than the exchange rate, while entry into a single currency requires a prior period of stability between sterling and the euro. However, yesterday's unexpectedly large cut in interest rates means that the gap between British and euro short rates has narrowed from more than 4 to 2.5 percentage points, and the markets expect a further narrowing.

The key issue is timing. Business, the markets and other European governments accept that a referendum is unlikely to be held until autumn 2001 at the earliest. But they also expect it will not be held much later than that.

Some foreign companies investing in Britain have told the Government that their plans assume (depend on) such a firm timetable. In public, the talk from the 11 euro-participants is of understanding regret that Britain is not on board now. That was the tone of a fascinating talk on Wednesday by Gunter Verheugen, Germany's Minister for Europe, to the Centre for European Reform, which has rapidly established itself as a leading think-tank on EU issues. Displaying a breadth and depth that few British ministers could match, Herr Verheugen outlined Germany's priorities on reform of the EU Budget, including the British rebate, (where there is very tight deadline) and on development of a common foreign and defence approach (on which he was optimistic). He exposed the idiocy of the tabloids' "Red Oskar" demonology of Herr Lafontaine over taxes and employment policy.

Herr Verheugen's refusal to acknowledge that staying out might hurt Britain was described by one eminent listener as "diplomatic politeness". Any public attempt to urge a target date, or warn of the consequences of delay, could, of course, be counter-productive. However, Germany and other governments are assuming — and have received private signals from the Blair Government — that sterling will join in three years or so.

That will not happen without public preparations now. Even if setting a firm target date might cause market upheavals, the Government should step up its commitment — to win over public opinion and to convince business to get ready for conversion (especially given the worries of banks over the time needed).

Just publishing a National Changeover Plan, as will happen later this month, is not enough without an explicit change in ministers' language. The Blair and Brown offices are still discussing the tone to take. Don't expect a big shift. The drift will continue.

Davies in comeback campaign

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT

RON DAVIES last night called on the Government to allow more powers to be transferred to the Welsh assembly. The former Welsh Secretary also demanded that the Welsh Labour Party should be given more freedom.

The assembly has no responsibility for law and order, broadcasting, nor any power to raise its own revenues. Mr Davies's lecture last night to 500 people in Cardiff was the most significant step of a planned political comeback. Friends believe he could be the assembly's First Secretary.

However, Labour's strategy is to put forward Alun Michael, the current Welsh Secretary, as the sound choice for leader of the Welsh Labour Party — despite popular support for Rhodri Morgan, the Cardiff West MP — and for First Secretary. A firm steer in the leadership campaign will be given tomorrow when a ballot of 60,000 Unison members is declared. A win for Mr Michael will almost certainly assure him victory.

Revolt fades as Radio 4 wins back listeners

BY RAYMOND SNODDY
MEDIA EDITOR

PRESSURE on James Boyle, the Controller of Radio 4, eased yesterday as official listening figures bounced back from the sharp fall that followed his shake-up in programmes. He had promised to resign if audiences continued to plummet amid anger over his changes.

Listeners are also staying tuned for longer, which Mr Boyle said he was trying to achieve with the schedules introduced last April. In the three months up to Christmas, the average Radio 4 listener tuned in for almost 11 hours a week: the highest for more than three years.

The station had 260,000 more listeners, winning back most of the audience lost in the previous quarter, with the extended *Today* programme performing well. Early afternoon dramas are attracting larger audiences, as is *Home Truths* on Saturday mornings and the Sunday morning schedule. The numbers listening to Radio 4 at least once a week reached 7.9 million.

The improved performance of Radio 4, and Zoe Ball's success in attracting 500,000 new listeners in her first quarter as sole presenter of the Radio 1 breakfast show, signalled a BBC fightback against the commercial sector. Ball took her total audience to 5.5 million as the BBC share of radio listening rose to 48.5 per cent against commercial radio's 49.3 per cent. The gap has narrowed for two quarters.


Boyle: had promised to quit if ratings fell again

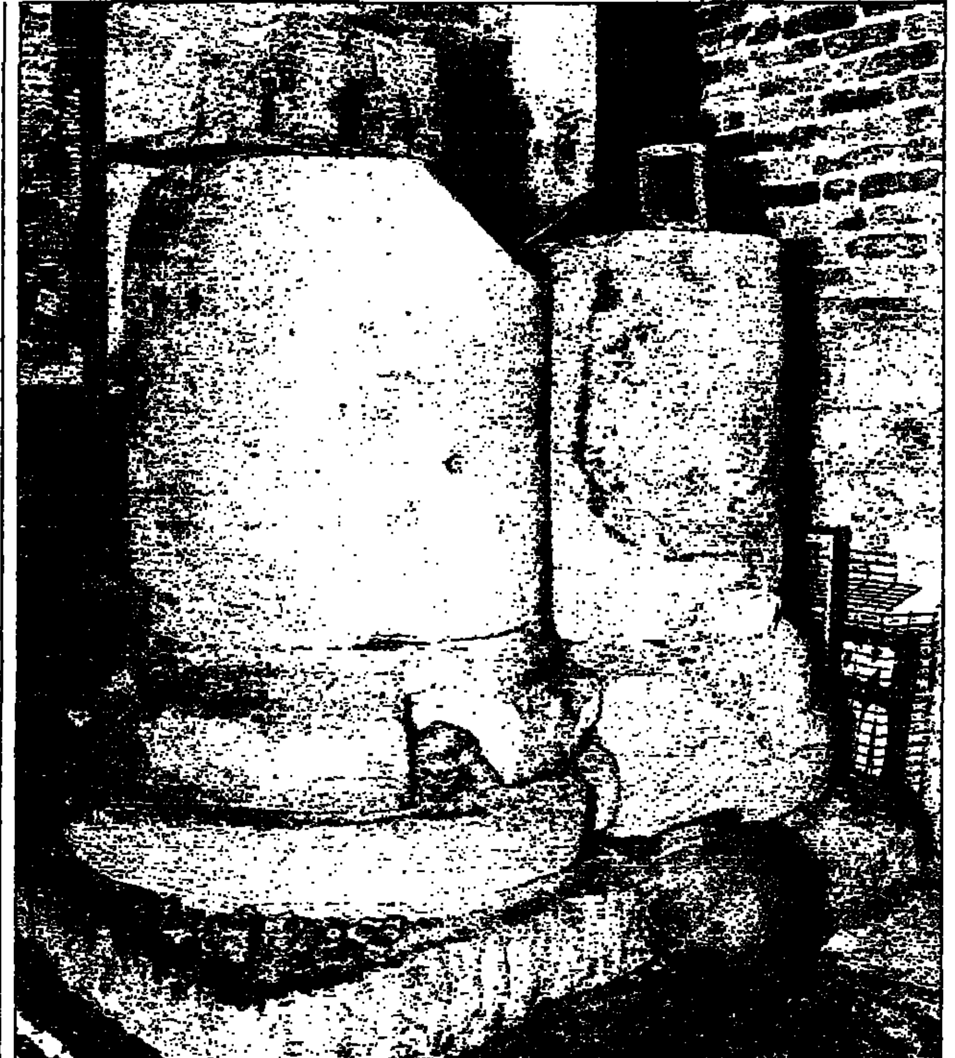
Jenny Abramsky, the Director of BBC Radio, said that yesterday's figures showed "BBC Radio is really in touch with its listeners. I am particularly pleased to see that the Radio 4 audience is settling down to the new schedule."

On Virgin, Chris Evans also increased his breakfast audience by 2.6 per cent and had a total of 2.54 million. Unlike Radio 1, which increased its regular listeners to 11.4 million, the highest figure for two years, the Virgin AM service had a regular weekly listenership of just over 3 million, a drop of 4 per cent. Radio 5 Live has had its strongest year, with 5.2 million listeners. Radio 2 held its position and Radio 3 attracted 140,000 more. Classic FM hit a new peak of 5.1 million.

Rachell Fox, of the Commercial Radio Companies Association, said that commercial radio had "maintained its share of listening lead over the BBC, despite dropping back slightly".

Despite individual stations gaining, the number of hours of listening fell. The BBC dropped from 405 million hours to 402 million, with local services losing audience share, and the commercial total dropped from 422 million to 408 million.

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The Roman pillars once supported a public building complete with shops and temple

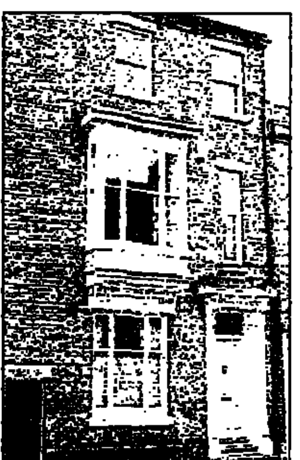
Des res with a slice of history

FROM the outside it looks little different from any other Victorian terraced town house but the buyer of 29 Bailgate in Lincoln will get a slice of Roman history as well as a three-storey family home.

The house boasts four giant pillars, part of the remains of a first-century Roman civic centre, as well as a section of road believed to have been built between York and London by the Romans after they arrived in the area in about 42BC.

The house's owners, Jo Dunn and her sister, Suzie Pinder-Smith, have continued their parents' tradition of allowing the public to visit the ruins, yet the house is neither listed nor protected by law. It is expected to fetch more than £200,000.

The ruins were discovered during the Victorian era but the sisters' house, which was builtin 1879, is the only one in the Bailgate area that has had them incorporated into its design. Mrs Dunn said that the cellar had also yielded a Roman urn and other artefacts, which had been studied by historians.


The house is expected to fetch more than £200,000

Mick Jones, the director of Lincoln's archaeological unit, said that the pillars would have formed part of "a large public building, which would have been very much the focal point of the town in Roman times — the equivalent of the town hall if you like — but it would have included a temple, shops and offices".

The Romans considered the building so prestigious that they shipped in sandstone for the building from Derbyshire rather than using Lincolnshire limestone, he said.

5,000 seek £25m over lost jobs

BY RUSSELL JENKINS, NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of insurance workers, who learnt they were to lose their jobs as they listened to breakfast radio, took their fight for £25 million compensation to an employment tribunal yesterday in a ground-breaking action.

They told the hearing in Liverpool that they had been left in the dark by their employers, Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance, about plans to merge the two companies and cut staff.

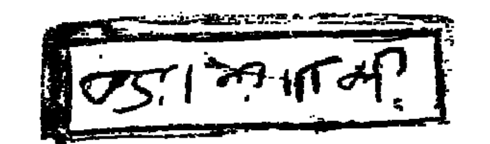
The £5.4 billion merger, which created Britain's biggest insurance company, caught the City on the hop. It also took staff on Merseyside by surprise. Many first heard the news of up to 5,000 job losses during an interview on the Radio 4 *Today* programme on May 3, 1996.

The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union claims that redundancy numbers were predetermined, rendering the eventual consultation with unions meaningless. The union, which is acting on behalf of the 5,000 who lost their jobs, claims that their employers breached European employment law. It is seeking three months' pay for every member made redundant.

Martin McKeown, a union officer, told the tribunal: "To my knowledge, no representative of MSF was consulted about the merger or possible redundancies prior to May 3."

Simon Gorton, counsel for the union, said the importance of the interview broadcast during the *Today* programme was formally to identify the number of job losses before the unions had been informed.

The union claims Royal and Sun Alliance breached the European Directive on Consultation and Collective Redundancies.





Heng's view in *Lianhe Zaobao* of Singapore on the bribery scandal in the international Olympics movement

Korea's IOC chief accused of bribery

Herb's view in Norway's *Dagningen Lillehammer* of the fight by Juan Antonio Samaranch to stay in office

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

KIM UN YONG, the powerful Korean Olympic official tipped as a possible successor to Juan Antonio Samaranch as President of the International Olympic Committee, came under fresh pressure to step down last night after it was revealed that Salt Lake City had got his son a job.

Mr Kim, president of the South Korean Olympic Committee and a leading member of the IOC since 1986, could become the latest casualty of the mushrooming corruption scandal that has forced four IOC members to quit and left five others facing expulsion for allegedly accepting bribes in exchange for votes.

David Simmons, the former chief executive of a Salt Lake City satellite broadcasting concern named Keystone Communications, disclosed yesterday that he had been asked by bid committee officials to hire Mr Kim's son, Jung Hoon, known as John. He told the *USA Today* newspaper that the officials had made clear that the job applicant was "Dr Kim's son".

John Kim was accordingly given a job at the company's offices in New York in the early 1990s, as Salt Lake City campaigned to become the venue for the 2002 Winter Games. Mr Simmons said that the bid committee had reimbursed Keystone for an unspecified portion of his salary.

The elder Mr Kim has attracted controversy because of the concert schedule of his daughter, the pianist Kim He Jung. She played solo with the Melbourne Orchestra when the Australian city was vying for the Olympics in 1990; appeared as the soloist at Atlanta's Olympic Arts Festival during the 1996 Games; and was paid $5,000 (£3,000) to play two concerts with Salt Lake City's Utah Symphony Orchestra.



Kim Un Yong: Salt Lake City gave his son a job

Utah Symphony's former music director has said she was hired "purely on merits", but he listened to her tape only after it was passed to the orchestra by local Olympic officials. A member of Melbourne's bid committee was quoted as saying: "I think she probably tinkled in the C division rather than the A."

During a stay in the South Korean city of Yongpyong, Mr Kim insisted yesterday that a distinction should be drawn between corruption and personal relations. "I detest outright bribery or corruption," he said. "But they have to be distinguised from human relations or professional business relations." He added: "I have a long, bright future spread before me."

Mr Simmons, who now works with his family's media company in Salt Lake City, said that he had disclosed his relationship with John Kim to investigators from both the IOC and Salt Lake City Organising Committee. He said the younger Mr Kim appeared qualified for the job and had helped him to do business on two trips to Asia.

The scandal prompted new moves in Japan, where the Mayor of the northern city of Sapporo ordered an investigation into the city's unsuccessful bid for the 1968 Winter Games. A Japanese newspaper has alleged that in 1964 Sapporo paid off four IOC officials with 1 million yen each, then worth $2,800. The city was selected as the venue for the 1972 Winter Games.

On Wednesday, Japanese Olympic officials began an inquiry into possible misconduct during Nagano's successful campaign to win the 1998 Winter Games. The IOC has asked all bidding cities for the Games from 1996 and 2000 to investigate.

Drugs testing, page 52

Sydney storm over Baywatch

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

California girls in the series seeking a new beach-head

AUSTRALIANS were choking over their XXXXs last night after the producers of *Baywatch* appealed for financial help to move the world's most-watched television programme to Sydney.

Most Australians don't like "bludgers" (Australian for scroungers) at the best of times, but especially not when they are millionaire Californians. There were already mixed feelings among the good people of Avalon — an exquisite beach suburb — when David Hasselhoff and his bevy of beauties flew in to shoot several episodes last year. But the inclusion of several Aussies out of the 500 girls who applied for a role soothed feelings.

Executive producer Greg Bonann maintains: "Just because we are the world's most popular show doesn't mean we're the world's wealthiest show." Bonann claims that it costs a lot of money to ship over four powerboats, along with the necessary wardrobe and make-up facilities.

Avalon residents, who are not short of a million themselves, can spot poverty when they have to. "For *Baywatch* to say they are not a wealthy show is ridiculous," said a member of Avalon's anti-*Baywatch* brigade. "They are using Avalon to get themselves back in the top spot at below-American prices."

Bonann says *Baywatch* will more than repay Australia for any help that it receives, predicting that the Sydney economy would benefit to the tune of Aus$18 million (£6.9 million) a year. It would, he said, put Avalon on the tourist map for millions of *Baywatch* fans every year. But putting the place on the map is precisely what many Avalonians don't want. "When they were here last year they took over the place," said Roger Maynard, a local. "They had 12 vans and they stopped people from doing anything."

A letter to the editor in a local paper attempted to put the likes of Mr Maynard in his place: "Had the good folk of Avalon protested against *Baywatch* on the basis of too much cosmetic surgery, the overwhelming pungency of peroxide and thin story lines and thinner actors, well then, maybe, just maybe, they have an argument.

"But they haven't. They don't want tourists messing up their car park or kicking sand on their towels as they come to take a look at Hollywood by the sea."

Bonann's expression of love for the harbour city rings a little hollow when he says that, if Sydney won't have *Baywatch*, he will go to Mexico.





Jordan officials censor news of King's illness

Public's hunger for facts left unsatisfied, Christopher Walker writes

FOR 48 hours before King Hussein left the US after the failure of his bone marrow transplant yesterday, Jordan's 4.6 million people had been fed misleading official accounts about his condition.

Only a few hours before news of his imminent return spread by word of mouth and jammed international telephone lines, the owner of an Amman bookshop said: "They tell us nothing. The only thing that anyone in Jordan has been talking about is the King's health, and it is the one thing about which none of us knew the real truth."

A former Jordanian diplomat said: "The people are going mad. They are switching from one foreign station to another to try to find out what has happened, and then they are ringing each other to exchange the latest news. They are sad and they are worried."

Even before the dramatic announcement of the failure of the operation using bone marrow donated by Princess Basma, the King's 48-year-old sister, Jordan's forces had been placed on special alert in case of attempts by Iraq or Syria to foment instability.

Hours before news emerged from the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, rumours had spread that the King might be near death. Relatives were reported to have flown to the United States to be by his bedside.

"The main thing that we hope and pray now is that he will get home alive," said one Jordanian source. "We all know he nearly died in the plane taking him to the US last week, which was why the Israelis reported wrongly that he was already dead."

> 'The people are going mad. They are sad and they are worried'

In Amman's mass-circulation daily *Al-Rai*, the columnist Sultan Hattab reflected the feelings of his countrymen. "We are praying to God to save his Majesty ... and to end the state of anxiety and confusion gripping us since he returned to the US for renewed treatment."

The public jitters could turn to panic despite efforts by palace officials to convey the impression of a smooth transfer of power to the new Crown Prince Abdullah, 37, Hussein's eldest son by his British-born wife, Princess Muna.

Anxiety has been increased by a clumsy purge of the local media. Yesterday it was announced that the editor of *Al-Majd* — which gave the first full account of the deposing of Hassan, the King's younger brother, as Crown Prince — had been served a 15-day detention order by a court for violating the draconian national press code.

Al-Majd reported that the Oxford-educated Prince Hassan, 51, had laid down his revolver before the King and asked to be shot if Hussein thought he was a traitor. These details were reported in yesterday's editions of *The Times*, which has been twice barred from sale in the Hashemite kingdom over the past week because of reports about palace intrigues and the King's health. Copies of *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*, normally on sale, have also been banned.

The offending papers are apparently held up by censors at the airport who check all stories relating to Jordan before releasing them for sale. Fahd Rimawi, editor of *Al-Majd*, an Arab nationalist weekly widely read in Amman, was charged with "insulting the monarch, publishing false information about the Prime Minister and members of the Government and attacks on the security service", according to Iyad Kattan, the Information Ministry chief.

Before his latest disclosures, Mr Rimawi had called in previous issues for the Prime Minister and Cabinet to resign. He is due to be freed on bail.

As part of the same purge, designed to restrict the circulation of information about the palace crisis, the board chairman of the popular Amman daily, *Al-Arab al-Yawm*, sacked two senior editors this week after they published unofficial reports on changes in the succession. The two, Taher al-Adwwan and Saleh al-Kallab, said that they had been given no reason.

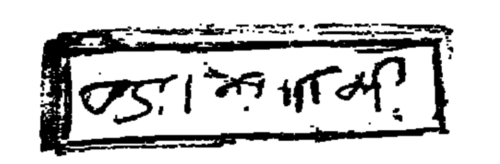
Many opposition politicians see the moves as an attempt by the new regent to ensure that details of palace intrigues are kept out of the public eye and that the Jordanian media publishes and broadcasts only official accounts of events.

But Western diplomats said such censorship only created rumours. Many Jordanians have access to foreign reports via the Internet and radio.

Ramzi Khoury, editor-in-chief of the new English-language *Arab Daily*, wrote: "It is common in this part of the world that bad news is not communicated to all family members to spare them worry. This, along with a popular suspicion of government statements on sensitive issues, has opened the door to rumours, inflicting a higher toll on the people than the truth would achieve. As for those who believe the truth is unnecessary at this time, what they are saying — probably without knowing — is that such truth is a destabilising factor."



Posters showing a fit and healthy King Hussein and his wife, Queen Noor, adorn the walls in Amman, the Jordanian capital, yesterday



Clintons condemn Chelsea cover story

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

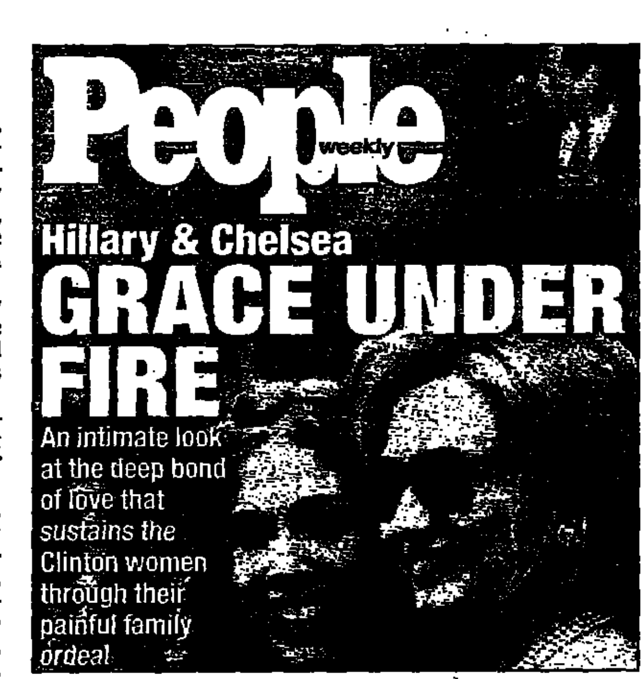
EVER the protective parents, Bill and Hillary Clinton yesterday denounced *People* magazine for running a cover story about how their daughter, Chelsea, is coping with the President's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

They said that the glossy weekly had chosen to print the article despite their personal appeals about Miss Clinton's privacy and security.

In their statement, the Clintons said they "deeply regret and are profoundly saddened" by the magazine's decision.

Until now Miss Clinton, 18, has been largely shielded from undue attention in the mainstream American media, thanks to an informal agreement between the White House and editors. *People*, published by Time Warner, went ahead with its cover story because Miss Clinton was an eyewitness to history and a valid journalistic subject, said Carol Wallace, the magazine's managing editor.

A photo of a smiling Mrs Clinton and daughter adorns the magazine which goes on sale today. The article, headlined "Grace under Fire", is described as an "intimate look at the deep bond of love that sustains the Clinton women through this painful family ordeal".



The *People* story breaks an informal press agreement

It says they are both strong and have turned to each other for strength and solace during the Lewinsky scandal.

They exchange letters and frequent late-night phone calls. Publicly the two have stood by Mr Clinton, despite their personal disappointment about his admission last August that he had misled them about the affair.

Miss Clinton is described as keeping her head high, refusing to let the world see her private pain. Though she reads news reports to keep up with the impeachment trial, she does not talk about the scandal even to her closest friends, the magazine said. "Chelsea has her mother's strength," says Nancy Snyderman, an old friend of Mrs Clinton. "She's been bred for it."

But the scandal has left Miss Clinton "deeply shaken", according to Mr Clinton's half-brother, Roger, in an earlier interview with *Paris-Match*.

In defending the decision to publish, Ms Wallace said: "There is a great deal of admiration for this mother-daughter relationship. Over the years we have written about the Clinton family in good times and bad. Chelsea is nearly 19 years old and a poised young adult."

Miss Clinton very deliberately held the hands of both her parents as they walked, stony-faced, to the presidential helicopter the day after his Lewinsky confession. She went with her father to church when Mrs Clinton was said to be too angry to go.

Last autumn there were tabloid reports, ignored by the Clintons, that she was still having difficulty coping with her father's affair and had broken up with her boyfriend. She also had treatment for stomach pains in a clinic at Stanford University in California where she is a student.

The Clintons have in the past expressed gratitude for the media's restraint in having allowed Miss Clinton the privacy that "any young person needs and deserves", noting that she had not taken on a public role other than as "an integral part of our family".

The couple have fiercely guarded her privacy throughout their time in Washington and earlier in Arkansas when he was Governor.

Their fear now is that with Miss Clinton's veil of privacy having been pierced by *People*, which has a circulation of 3.2 million, the way will be open for greatly increased coverage of her. However, the Clintons' pre-emptive blast against *People* is likely to give all editors pause.

Senate loses appetite for live Lewinsky testimony

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE impeachment trial of President Clinton moved into its final phase last night with the prosecution's hopes of a live appearance by Monica Lewinsky fading as senators searched for a way to conclude the proceedings swiftly.

As the Senate prepared to decide whether to call Ms Lewinksy and other witnesses in person, Trent Lott, the Majority Leader, said that the appetite for such a spectacle had gone. "It does not appear that the votes are there for live witnesses," he said after a meeting with fellow Republicans.

The 100 senators resumed sitting as a court after a break this week while Ms Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan, Mr Clinton's confidant, and Sidney Blumenthal, his senior aide, gave depositions in private. The Senate was last night weighing whether tapes of the depositions should be played in the Senate as part of concluding presentations.

The prosecutors from the House were pressing for all three witnesses to be called to the well of the Senate, or failing that, Ms Lewinsky alone. If both requests were rejected by the Senate, as looked likely, they would settle for the videotapes to be played, either in their entirety or in parts.

Mr Lott said he hoped closing arguments would be presented early next week and be followed by a debate by senators who have been silent onlookers so far. Acutely aware of Americans' exasperation at the drawn-out trial, he said it was his wish that senators be brief; the Gettysburg Address was only a little more than two minutes long, he said pointedly.

His timetable could still be disrupted by moves by Republicans to draft a "finding of facts" motion. Under this plan, which has been dubbed "convict, but not evict", Mr Clinton would be accused of providing "false and misleading testimony" to a Grand Jury and having "wrongfully engaged in conduct to delay the discovery and cover up the existence of evidence".

Internet lingerie proves a letdown

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AFTER so much fevered anticipation, it was unsurprising that the event itself was a bit of a letdown.

A lingerie firm jammed its website by showing a video relay from its fashion show in what was billed as the biggest live event on the Internet. But many of those who logged on did not even get a peek, and those who did found little to get hot and bothered about.

Victoria's Secret, famous for its advertisements featuring scantily clad models aimed at wooing male customers to buy something for their wives and girlfriends, had hyped its show like none other. It was trailed by the appearance of heaving bosoms and sultry pouts in the television commercial breaks during Sunday's Superbowl.

The firm — one of the first to advertise on a big scale on the Internet in this way — said yesterday that millions had logged on for the show.

It had planned for up to 500,000 people to be able to tune in at any one time, but had yet to release full figures yesterday.

However, rather than sashaying down the catwalk, the models moved jerkily and were only occasionally in focus. Sometimes they appeared to be in a snowstorm.

Only Victoria's Secret sales figures will show whether the million who visited its website in the days before the show began were serious customers, or were just looking.



STAN HONDA / AFP

One of the Victoria's Secret models. Eager viewers swamped the show's website

Mayor reinstates 'niggardly' official

BY IAN BRODIE

WASHINGTON'S new Mayor admitted yesterday that he had acted too hastily in accepting the resignation of a white aide who upset a black subordinate by using the word "niggardly".

Anthony Williams will give David Howard another job at City Hall in the hope of ending an issue that began with the mistaken belief that the word was a racial slur. The gaffe quickly ballooned into a huge drama involving political correctness and racial sensitivity that became a national embarrassment for Mr Williams, who took over only last month from the widely criticised Marion Barry with promises to revitalise the American capital.

Mr Howard resigned as head of constituent services when rumours spread that he had used the word "nigger". The mayor promptly accepted. In rehiring him, Mr Williams said: "While it is important for a mayor, or any leader, to act decisively, make bold decisions and create a sense of urgency, it is not always necessary to act hastily. I believe I acted too hastily."

City Hall sources said the episode would lead to a dramatic reduction in the duties of the senior aide who handled the Howard resignation and left Mr Williams so uninformed and exposed politically.

35,000 Kosovo force ready

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE EDITOR

NATO is planning to send five brigades, three of them armoured, into Kosovo, with a 5,000-man reserve force in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, if there is a successful peace deal signed in Rambouillet.

The total size of the force, including the strategic reserve, will be about 35,000.

With the Rambouillet talks guaranteed to start tomorrow, after the Serbian parliament's approval yesterday for Belgrade to send a delegation, Nato is anxious to get a clear idea of the nature and scope of the proposed peace implementation mission needed for Kosovo, so that planning can be completed as soon as possible.

Next week General Wesley Clark, Nato's Supreme Commander Europe, will present his "concept of operations" for Kosovo to the alliance's military committee in Brussels.

Nato hopes that the force envisaged for Kosovo will have the same powers as those it enjoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the Implementation Force (Ifor) of 30,000 troops has almost viceregal authority, with the ability to go anywhere, search any building, demand to see any files and also to control the airspace.

If the Rambouillet talks lead to a settlement, Nato will want an annexe attached to the agreement that will spell out the role it will be expected to play in Kosovo. The Dayton peace agreement which ended the war in Bosnia included an annexe that laid out Nato's mandate and responsibilities.

It remains to be seen whether Belgrade will agree to having 30,000 Nato troops based in its province with clearance to go anywhere they please.

Six Nato countries have said they will contribute to the Kosovo force which probably will be called Kfor. Nato diplomatic sources said that the force would consist of five brigades, three "heavy" and two light, made up of 15 battalions.

One diplomatic source said that one of the key issues to be resolved in the Rambouillet peace talks would be that of limiting the number of Yugoslav Army soldiers allowed to stay in Kosovo during the three-year interim period of a negotiated settlement. "The more Yugoslav troops in Kosovo, the more Nato soldiers there will have to be," the source said.

Yesterday Alain Richard, the French Defence Minister, said that France would play an important role in Nato's proposed Kosovo force, sending 5,000 troops with 40 aircraft and ships.

Britain is working on contingency plans for sending 5,000 to 8,000 troops; they will include staff from the British-commanded Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) headquarters who would be sent from Germany.

M Richard indicated that the French Government would be happy for a British general to be put in charge of the Kosovo force. The commander of the ARRC, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Jackson, is expected to get the job.

M Richard said that the existing Nato extraction force, on standby in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to evacuate the international verification mission in Kosovo, would be the first element of the new force to be sent to Kosovo. France has the largest contingent in the extraction force, which is commanded by a French general.

The United States has said that it will send between 2,000 and 4,000 troops to Kosovo, content to leave the main peace implementation role to the Europeans. However, the Nato diplomatic sources said that it would be crucial for the US contingent to have a high-profile role and not just be in support because of the impact the presence of US forces would have on Belgrade.

Greece also announced yesterday that it would send ground troops to Kosovo. Germany has already promised 3,000 troops. Canada has also confirmed it will participate.

Massacre bodies become pawns in propaganda war

Bereaved are unable to bury the dead, writes **Anthony Loyd** in Stimlje

THE old woman has become a little more unhinged on each of the three days I have seen her. On Tuesday she was shouting "Shame on Europe", repeatedly outside the mortuary in Pristina, a mantra interrupted only by fits of weeping. Some of her companions on that day, also shattered by bereavement, appeared equally unbalanced: one man kept pulling a segment of human skull still caked in tissue out of his pocket — he said that it was all he had left of his son.

On Wednesday, the old woman was wandering alone through the snowy wasteland around Racak, her home village and the scene three weeks ago of the worst massacre of the Kosovo conflict. "I am looking for my son," she said. But there was no one in Racak at all.

she stood in the square in neighbouring Stimlje yesterday. She was still seeking her son, but speech seemed to have deserted her and she mumbled unintelligibly.

Three weeks after the massacre, the dead have neither been laid to rest nor even reclaimed by their relatives. Instead, in the run-up to the peace talks at Rambouillet, the bodies have become pawns in a propaganda war.

The reality of what happened at Racak remains shrouded by claim and counter-claim. What is known is that four Serb policemen were killed outside the village in a Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) ambush. Subsequently at least 40 ethnic Albanian men from the village were shot in a dawn attack by the Serbs. The Serbs say that all the dead were KLA guerrillas killed in action. The Albanians say they were all civilians, killed after capture.

Sacha Benz, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is trying to negotiate a handover of bodies, said: "This is obviously a key issue for each side. The Albanians want to make the funeral a symbolic event, with all the bodies buried at once. The Serbs want the bodies to be buried individually."

The 40 bodies have been held by the Serb authorities in the mortuary at Pristina. According to Danica Marinkovic, the Serbian judge charged with investigating the massacre, 29 bodies have been identified, while the names of the other 11 remain unknown. The report of an independent team of Finnish pathologists sent to examine the bodies remains unpublished.

Two days ago the 29 identified bodies were taken by the Serbs to Stimlje, the nearest secure point to Racak, to be handed over to the Albanians. However, this initiative came to nothing when the Serbs insisted that each body could be reclaimed by only one family member, and was then to be buried individually.

Yesterday the black circus began again, but this time the bodies never even left Pristina. In Stimlje, the expressions of the bereaved, gathered to collect dead sons, husbands or brothers, crumpled again.

"We are not asking for revenge," said an aged man with a face of a thousand lines. "We're not even asking for accountability. All I ask for now is for the dignity to bury my son as I wish."

ANJA NIEDPINGHAUS / EPA

Ethnic Albanian women wait in Stimlje yesterday for the bodies of their men, killed in Racak, to be handed over

Serbs reject Nato role

THE Serbian parliament yesterday steered itself onto a collision course with the international community and Nato, sending its delegates to the Kosovo peace conference with a clear mandate to block all attempts to remove the province from Serbia or to send in Nato peacekeepers (Tom Walker writes).

Vojislav Seselj, leader of the extremist Radical Party, said Nato would "be prevented with all available means" and declared a national "allergy to the mere name" of France, host to the Rambouillet conference set to begin this weekend.

The parliament agreed by 227-3 votes to send delegates to the talks. President Milosevic of Yugoslavia will not travel, but Milan Milutinovic, the Serbian President, may head the team.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Russian 'spy' to face new inquiry

Moscow: Aleksandr Nikitin, the former navy captain charged with spying by the Russian Government, may spend years more under virtual house arrest in his native St Petersburg after the Russian Supreme Court sent the case back for further investigation (Alice Lagnado writes).

Mr Nikitin, 46, was charged with spying in February 1996 after he contributed to a report for Bellona, a Norwegian environmental organisation, in which he accused Russia's Northern Fleet of dumping nuclear waste in the Arctic Sea. He maintained that he used publicly available information. Mr Nikitin's lawyers announced that they will now take the case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Thieves freeze victims

Johannesburg: A South African butcher and his five employees were found frozen to death inside a meat van after a suspected armed robbery, police said. The six had been overpowered by a gang and locked inside the van at a meat factory in Vereeniging, 35 miles south of here. South Africa is one of the world's most crime-plagued countries, with an annual murder rate of 52 people per 100,000 of the population. *(Reuters)*

£5m Seoul poll 'gift'

Seoul: Chung Tae Soo, founder of South Korea's failed Hanbo group, testified in parliamentary hearings that he gave the former President, Kim Young Sam, 10 billion won (£5 million) to fund his 1992 election campaign. The collapse of Hanbo and other conglomerates sparked the crisis that forced South Korea to accept a bailout arranged by the International Monetary Fund in December 1997. *(Reuters)*

13 killed in Indonesia

Jakarta: At least 13 people died and hundreds were injured during clashes between civilians and police in Indonesia's rebellious Aceh province, a human rights group said. The Legal Aid Foundation said the deaths happened when police opened fire on a crowd in Idi Cut, about 950 miles northwest of here. Police said that two people died when a crowd waiting to hear a separatist speech was dispersed. *(Reuters)*

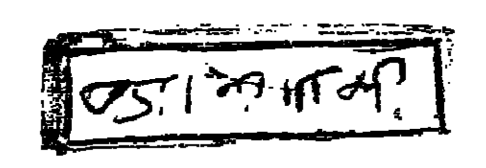
Edna average now



Sydney: Australia's favourite drag queen, Dame Edna Everage, right, is now plain Mrs Edna Everage after relinquishing her title and defecting to the republicans. She said this year's referendum on the republic had brought her out of the anti-monarchy closet in what could provide a boost for the ailing republican movement. "I've been a dame for many years. I've been worshipped in Australia and it's time I got a bit of reality into my life," she said. *(AFP)*

Deadly cocktail

Moscow: Every 22 minutes a Russian dies after drinking liquor of dubious origin, the Interior Ministry said, adding that in the first 11 months of last year, 21,778 people died from bad liquor, compared with 23,983 for all of 1997. Observers said the figures were suspicious: the ministry's economic crimes department has put the 1997 number at nearly 43,000. *(AFP)*



Idle dogs of war in France bite back with strike

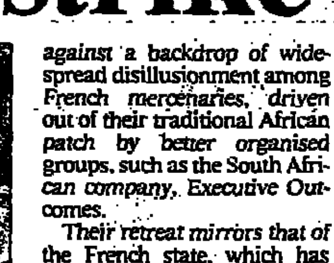
FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

FRENCH mercenaries are in revolt over their lack of work and what they say is the failure of their leaders to pay them for the few missions that have come their way in recent years.

The malaise has reached such proportions that a group of about 30 mercenaries took the unprecedented step of going on strike last year, *Libération* reported yesterday. The men downed arms and went fishing when they were supposed to be advising the government troops in Congo Brazzaville.

Bob Denard, the celebrated mercenary leader whose band were once known as *Les Affreux* (The Terrors), is at the centre of the confrontation. The row has been simmering for years but came to light, his soldiers told *Libération*, because M Denard withheld the Fr50,000 (about £5,000) bonus





Denard surrenders to the French troops in Comoros

he had promised on the eve of his failed 1995 coup attempt in the Comoros Islands. "It was only when we threatened to speak to the press that he agreed to pay the basic salary (Fr17,500 a month)," one was quoted as saying.

The accusations come against a backdrop of widespread disillusionment among French mercenaries, driven out of their traditional African patch by better organised groups, such as the South African company, Executive Outcomes.

Their retreat mirrors that of the French state, which has lost its once considerable influence in African affairs and is struggling to maintain a foothold in its former colonies. "The French mercenary world is, at the moment, like a small and very disorganised Gallic village," said Emmanuel Pochet, tipped to take over from M Denard, 68.

Some of the most recent operations, none involving more than a few dozen men, illustrate the problem. In 1997, a 30-strong band set out for the civil war in Zaire — now the Democratic Republic of Congo — only to find that it was over.

Two years earlier M Denard had led an assault on the Comoros that turned into a fiasco. Faced by about 1,000 regular French troops, he surrendered and was imprisoned in Paris for nine months. The failure of the 1995 mission was in stark contrast to the 1980s, when M Denard and his 600-strong band propped up the Comoros Government and virtually ruled the islands. In his memoirs, M Denard said his interventions in conflicts in Morocco, Benin, Biafra and elsewhere had been carried out with at least the tacit, and sometimes the active, backing of the French secret services. Today, however, the state has disowned M Denard. He is in semi-retirement and *Les Affreux* have disbanded.

The latest recruits have often come from the ranks of extremist movements, including the French National Front's "security service", according to M Pochet. "If I took old soldiers close to the NF for [an operation in] Zaire, that's because I had to act quickly and because I had decided to get rid of the psychopaths, the cannibals and those who yearned after the SS. Some of them had been photographed eating a prisoner's liver in Burma," M Pochet said.

Papon sues over 1961 killing of Algerians

Paris: Claims that French police killed dozens of Algerians in Paris in October 1961 were raised yesterday in a libel suit by Maurice Papon, convicted of crimes against humanity (Adam Sage writes).

Papon, sentenced to ten years' jail last year for his wartime role in deporting Jews to Nazi Germany, is suing Jean-Luc Einaudi, an historian, who claims that Papon, as Paris police chief, ordered the crackdown in which up to 200 supporters of Algerian independence died.

The incident was ignored until M Einaudi testified at Papon's trial. An official has since admitted that "several dozen" people died as a result of "very heavy" police action.

M Einaudi's legal team says Papon's motive in bringing the lawsuit is to try to influence his court appeal this year against his conviction for wartime crimes against humanity.

Yesterday's hearing opened as documents published from French Army archives revealed the torture of Algerian prisoners in the former colony.

ALEKSANDR NATRUSKIN / REUTERS



Russian mission control technicians monitor yesterday's failed attempt to deploy a mirror in space to reflect light into the dark corners of Earth

Reflecting on Russia's darker side

As Mir's mirror mission falters, Alice Lagnado in St Petersburg puts the case for more light

THE Russian attempt yesterday to unfold a giant mirror in space that would illuminate the country's darker expanses was condemned by scientists before it had even begun. But clearly these people have never lived in the darker parts of Russia during the winter months.

The experiment failed, much to the glee of Western observers — and to the disappointment of people like me. During nearly two winters spent in St Petersburg, I would have gladly paid good money to receive a few minutes of sunshine.

Repeated efforts yesterday by cosmonauts involved in the Mir space station's *Znamya* (Banner) experiment failed to unfold the 25-yard flower-shaped mirror. The mirror apparently snagged on an antenna, and a second attempt will be made today if technicians are able to remedy the problem overnight.

The people of St Petersburg can only hope. The city is on a latitude level with Alaska, and though in summer the glorious white nights make it possible to read a newspaper in the street at 3am, in winter sunlight is a brief encounter framed by long hours of darkness.

St Petersburg is dark — very dark. During my first winter there I mutated into an antisocial, apathetic creature, a kind of mole in human form. I had enough sleep, but felt permanently exhausted. My skin was a papery pale blue. I felt lugubrious and spent evenings slumped over a book and avoiding social contact because, well, it involved going outside.

However, I soon discovered that among the Russians, who I thought were too tough to become miserable over such a banal thing as the weather, there were plenty of fellow complainers. Marina, a glamorous crime reporter, hated it so much she wanted to marry a West European man just to get away.

The most common solution was vodka. "I don't know how I'd get through winter without it," said Lena, a lawyer, who apart from her regular vodka shots was incredibly healthy. The weather was also, I'm sure, why extra-marital affairs were a way of life. It's a warm, indoor activity that passes the time and lifts the spirits.

The dark has also given Russian literature its fairly well-deserved reputation for grimness. How could Dostoevsky have done anything useful in Tuscany? What would Gogol get up to in California? They would be lost without that ready-made bleak atmosphere — and their readers might have actually enjoyed a novel instead of wanting to shoot themselves.

So before you criticise the space mirror on environmental grounds, think of how many marriages it could save. How many drink problems it could avoid. How the Russian novel could be reborn as a joyous paean to the goodness of life instead of a bitter testimony to human weakness. And compare that to the upset a mirror might cause a few reindeer.

LINKS

[illegible] — Official website giving details and history of the project.

[illegible] — Official Mir Space Station website giving pictures and latest information.

[illegible] — Sky & Telescope Magazine website with special reports on the project.

[illegible] — Campaign for Dark Skies website. Giving astronomical arguments against the project.



The mirror would shed light on St Petersburg

Solicitors' Reserve Account

Old Gross Rate per annum (%)	Old AER (%)	Balance	New Gross Rate per annum (%)	New AER (%)
		Instant access – interest paid quarterly		
4.20	4.27	£250,000 +	3.70	3.75
4.15	4.22	£100,000 – £249,999	3.60	3.65
3.75	3.80	£25,000 – £99,999	3.25	3.29
3.25	3.29	£2,000 – £24,999	2.75	2.78
2.75	2.78	£500 – £1,999	2.25	2.27
1.50	1.51	£0 – £499	1.50	1.51



Auschwitz loan link hits bank takeover

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S largest commercial bank, Deutsche Bank, was thrust into the middle of a new Nazi-era scandal yesterday, casting a shadow over its planned $10 billion (£6 billion) takeover of Bankers Trust.

According to Dr Manfred Pohl, the bank's own historian, Deutsche Bank helped to finance the building of Auschwitz concentration camp.

Coming on the heels of a pending American legal action over compensation for Holocaust victims, the claim is likely to blight the bank's expansion in the United States.

Deutsche Bank is not the only target of legal action — indeed its rival, Dresdner Bank, once known as the SS bank, is also facing huge court claims — and the pressure on German industry has prompted the Government to set up a company-funded compensation scheme that would fend off further action. Bodo Hombach, adviser to the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, will travel to New York next week to discuss a possible deal.

Whether that will be enough to protect business — dozens of firms, including Volkswagen and the metals group Degussa, are vulnerable — seems doubtful. To approach the sum that is being demanded in US courts, the fund would have to be about $18 billion.

Deutsche Bank credit records show that it lent money to companies building the concentration camp, above all W. Riedel und Sohn in Bielsko-Biala in southern Poland.

More than 1.5 million people, mainly Jews, were killed at Auschwitz. The level of the bank's involvement is still uncertain, Dr Pohl said, adding: "It is clear that this was known in the main office in Katowice. It is not certain whether it was known in Berlin." However, the loan would have had to have been approved in Berlin.

Deutsche Bank was distrusted by the Nazis in the 1920s and was branded initially as a "red bank" because of the many Jews, Catholics and Social Democratic sympathisers associated with it. That soon changed after the Nazi takeover in 1933. Jewish members were forced off the board and the bank took a full part in "Aryanising" Jewish property, that is, buying up houses and flats that Jews had been forced to sell at low prices.

The bank had no scruples about taking over the Rothschild bank, Creditanstalt, in Vienna in 1938, even though its chief executive had been thrown from a moving car by storm troopers.

Under the new management, Creditanstalt opened a separate department to conduct business with companies operating with labour supplied by concentration camps. Camp gold, often taken from murdered Jews, was traded with the assistance of Creditanstalt. The Gestapo held accounts at Deutsche Bank.

Little of this is new: indeed, counter-intelligence working for the US military government prepared a report on German industry in 1947 which devoted 100 pages to the bank's overseas activities during the Third Reich.

The latest claim, however, so plainly identifies the bank with Auschwitz, the century's symbol of organised mass murder, that it is difficult to see how the bank can avoid its responsibilities or restore its prestige in the United States.

Its most persuasive defence is that the bank itself made available the company archives which provided yesterday's disclosures. The bank's executive board is due to meet next week to consider the latest disclosures and the immediate future of the merger with Bankers Trust.





ANDRE CAMARA

Diego Marani, of the EU Council of Ministers, hopes that his new language, Europanto, will make people from all countries laugh and improve the free movement of ideas

'Europanto' bubbles out of linguistic liquidiser

"In Seine Bruxel office, Inspector Cabillot regarded la rain out des window while pensante aan quanto tempo und quanto work necessited ut Europa finalmently unita make."

BY BEN MACINTYRE

That stream of gobbledygook opens the first novel to be written in "Europanto", a bizarre and free-form mixture of European languages that has been cooked up by an EU translator as the linguistic answer to the single European currency. The passage above translates, if that is the right word, as: "In his Brussels office, Inspector Cabillot looked at the rain outside his window and thought how much time and effort it had taken to build a united Europe."

Building a single European language is much simpler, it appears, for Europanto (from the Greek word *panto*, meaning everything) has no grammar, no punctuation, no pronunciation and only one firm rule: it should be at least vaguely comprehensible to every European.

The linguistic recipe used by Diego Marani, Europanto's Italian-born inventor, is broadly the following: take a firm grounding of English and French, toss in chunks of German, Spanish and Italian; garnish with a dash of Flemish and Euroslang; pour the contents into a language liquidiser and serve when thoroughly puréed.

In *Las adventures des Inspector Cabillot*, the Europanto novel just published in France, Signor Marani, 39, takes his language into new territory, having already given rise to a Europanto board game and a regular Belgian newspaper column.

The hero of Signor Marini's novel is the hapless Inspector Cabillot (a reference to *cabillaud* in French, meaning cod), "*el autentico europeano polizero qui fighte contra al mal por eine Europa van pax und prosperity donde se speake eine sole lingua: de Europanto*". For those readers still getting to grips with the vocabulary that is "a real European policeman who fights against evil for a Europe united in peace and prosperity where a single language is spoken: Europanto".

The inspector tackles such varied euro-concerns as a mad cow disease terrorist cell (*Demente Bovine Frakzion*) that takes over London ("*Die mad vaquas van all Europe sich united in Grosse Britannia und last noche taked el power in London*") and the best chat-up line in a disco "*Mayde trinke tu etwas?*" (Fancy a drink?)

President Clinton's current domestic complications also get the Europanto treatment, beginning with this unlikely exchange between two world leaders: Jacques Chirac: "*Hallo Billy! Jacques speakante! Wat passe?*" Bill Clinton: "*Ah! Jacques! Wat surprise! Ich passe gut! Todo in order. Und con toi?*"

Signor Marani, who speaks some ten languages fluently and works at the EU Council of Ministers, came across the idea of inventing a hybrid tongue when he and his fellow interpreters found they were slipping into an odd multilingual argot after a hard day of high-speed translation in Brussels.

The pseudo-language has already attracted a large popular following and items in Europanto have begun appearing in the official Council of Ministers' *Gazette*, although not everyone gets the joke. Signor Marani has received a number of letters from Scandinavians wanting to sign up for Europanto lessons, and speakers of Esperanto, the universal language invented in 1887, are particularly unamused.

Signor Marani said he started speaking Europanto as a joke, but now actually thinks in Euro-pidgin.

"I adopted English structure because it is universally known, and I tend to use words with a common root, usually Latin," he said. "International English is already a mixture of languages, polluted by foreign speakers like myself who put something of their own culture into it."

As the author points out, many common words have already transcended national barriers to become part of universal parlance, such as pizza, espresso, chile con carne and OK.

The blurb that accompanies Signor Marani's project may have a familiarly earnest pan-European ring to it, offering to create "a sort of humour that makes people from all countries laugh" and "facilitate the free movement of ideas". The only problem with Europanto is that, while some of it may be comprehensible to most Europeans, it seems unlikely that anyone, save Signor Marani, can follow every word of the strange linguistic hotchpotch he has created.

But if you think Europanto is too much like hard work now, just wait until Romania and Poland join the EU.

Vis-à-vis your vocabulario...

Hallo-cocco — Good morning
Helpo! — Help!
Teine onions — Mind your own business
Olalà! — Wow!
Muchisimamente embarassando de disturbo — Sorry to interrupt
Me palpito por toi — I love you
Minde teine vocabulario — Watch your lip
Keine worry — No problem
Muchas dankes — Thank you
Ich turbo toi — I love you
Wo pisse? — Where are the toilets?
Jamas minde — Never mind
Olé — Good evening, Mademoiselle. Would you accord me the pleasure of the next dance?

Hot-blooded Italians are exposed as shrinking violets

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FAR from being extrovert and excitable, the Italians are a nation of shy and retiring people, it emerged this week. This will come as a surprise to anyone who has seen Italians engaged in a friendly argument in the street, voices raised and arms whirling, or (in the case of women) has been the target of male attention.

But according to a survey by the Italian Psychosomatic Association, the bluster and exuberance hides a natural bashfulness and a sense of insecurity. Most Italians, it seems, are too timid to confront a shop manager to demand a refund or change an item, let alone talk to their boss about conditions of work or a pay rise.

Five million Italians — one in ten of the population — are too shy to enter a shop, or hold any kind of conversation with their superiors at work. Many Italians will leave a shop without making a purchase, or buy something they do not really want, rather than cause a fuss.

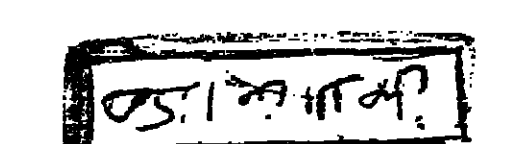
Eighty-four per cent of people in the survey, which involved 2,000 Italians between 22 and 63, admitted to "at least occasional bouts of shyness", *La Repubblica* commented. "We are world famous for our nerves of steel, our social panache and our outgoing behaviour, but we seem to have turned into a nation of shrinking violets."

The survey said nearly a quarter of those questioned said they hated having to make a speech in public. "Their foreheads run with sweat, they stutter, their knees turn to jelly and they feel sick," the survey said. "All these symptoms tend to have tragi-comic consequences for those involved, and the results can be serious."

Other "moments of stress" which caused suffering included examinations and "little chats with the boss". Five per cent said they were too timid to eat in restaurants in case they made a fool of themselves or were let down by their table manners. Three per cent were too embarrassed to use a lavatory in a public place.

The association said the problem was worse in northern cities, such as Milan and Turin, than in the more outgoing (and sunnier) south. But with St Valentine's Day approaching, the survey offered encouraging findings for the romantically inclined, noting that only 11 per cent said they suffered "sleepless nights" before making "passionate declarations".

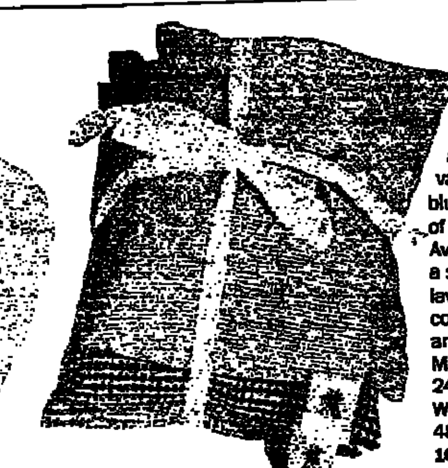
Despite reports of the decline of the "Latin lover", *Il Messaggero* said, Italians remained bold in "matters of the heart". The rest should overcome their nervousness by making light of their affliction. "There is a funny side to shyness, and if sufferers can try to see it they are half-way to a cure".



SIX OF THE BEST Scented cushions

WHITE LINEN, £30
Linen pillow, densely packed with dried rose petals, has a pungent scent – too strong for some. Cologne & Cotton, 791 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-736 9261)
9/10

RUST BEADED VELVET, £33.95
Rectangular velvet bean-bag pillow filled with lavender. Turquoise and amber-coloured glass bead fringing adds an ethnic touch. Graham & Green, 10 Elgin Crescent W11 (0171-727 4594) 8/10



FUCHSIA HEART, £8
Silk taffeta lavender "with love" heart. Gold braid loops around hangers to keep cupboards and clothes scented. The Cross mail order (0171-221 8616)
10/10

GINGHAM SQUARES, £16
Elegant checks and stripes in varying tones of blue reminiscent of men's shirts. Available in a set of three lavender squares, comfortable and familiar. Margaret Howell, 24 Brook Street W1 (0171-495 4888)
10/10



BLUE VELVET HEART, £24
Delicately embroidered padded heart is backed in baby blue velvet. Attach to cupboard door to scent a room. Pierre Frey, 251-253 Fulham Road SW3 (0171-376 5599)
9/10

TASSLE, £20.68
Quilted square with beautiful sledging illustration and elegant green braid loop and tassle. Could be used anywhere in the home. Pierre Frey, as before 9/10

COMPILED BY DEBORAH BRETT

ALL ACTION

Elle Macpherson dispenses with the idea that pregnancy demands concealing drapery

You're looking just swell



CUTTING EDGE
JANE SHILLING

Let us suppose that, like Viscountess Linley, blooming prettily on the front pages of the weekend papers, you suddenly find — casting your mind back to that sudden surge of pre-Christmas affection for your husband, and doing a quick calculation on your fingers — that you, too, are in an interesting condition. What is the first thing you should do? Hire a birthing pool? Book your husband a course of antenatal classes? Put the clump of cells' name down for Eton? All very important, but even more crucial is that you should make a firm resolution not to start reading the magazines published for the Future Mother.

Why not? Because they are dreary, that's why. Pregnancy is a thrilling and rewarding experience, during which you have a fair chance of looking as pretty and sexy as you ever have in your life. But if you read these magazines, you will be able to think of nothing but varicose veins and stretch marks. As for the fashion — it is enough to drive anyone to a hot bath and a bottle of gin. Page after page of leopard-print overshirts in nasty synthetics and unspeakable maternity dungarees.

I wonder why the manufacturers of maternity wear think that British women undergo at the moment of conception a taste transplant that leads them to abandon their habitual quirky and self-assured look. (I exempt from this jeremiad *Prima Baby* magazine, which at least realises that pregnant women don't want to dress like toddlers: the Vertbaudet catalogue, which has some flashes of French brio, and Formes, a French label with a pronounced, if conventional, sense of style. If you can't get through pregnancy without a midnight-blue silk fitted dress and jacket with diamanté buttons, £185, Formes is for you. Its smoke-grey cotton satin pedal pushers, £55, and matching four-button jacket, £135, are quite nice, too.)

Why do women put up with this awful stuff? The answer is, I imagine, that many of them don't. It is hard to see why anyone would want to spend money on clothes with a life of just nine months. I doubt whether Lady Linley will be spending the next few months trussed up in maternity dungarees. And I don't suppose it even entered the heads of Posh, Scary and Whatsername from All Saints to go trolling down to their local Mothercare or Dorothy Perkins Maternity. They went on wearing exactly what they've always worn, dispensing merrily with the idea that pregnancy demands concealing drapery or fussy details to "distract" the eye — as though anything could distract attention from the fact that one looks, as Colette put it, like a rat making off with a stolen egg.

The best-dressed pregnant women are those who wear clothes that celebrate their new, gravid shape. Trying to achieve this ideal, I spent my pregnancy in the grip of a black cotton-Lycra bodysuit by Jasper Conran. The Lycra supported everything that needed support, and made the best of the bits that remained slender.

If I were in the early stages of pregnancy now, I might head for Top Shop, where there is a huge selection of pretty A-line skirts with stretchy waists. Draw-string fatigues are £32, and a long, cosy fleece skirt in grey or cream with a draw-string waist is £32.

At Warehouse, a sexy little black jersey dress is £40 and a long, fine wool tunic in palest grey is £35 — good with black acetate jersey wide-leg pants from Wallis, £45. Next, which cuts generously, has a statuesque embroidered crinkle viscose long dress and coat in sand or navy for £79.99. At Laura Ashley there is an entire wardrobe in cable-knit cream and navy cotton — a long skirt is £45, a tunic £50, and an ankle-length cardigan coat, £80.

Marks & Spencer has a collection in crinkle viscose, in sand, camouflage green, white and black; wide-leg pants with an elastic waist are £30, a long shirt, £35, and a sleeveless tunic, £26. If you have a party to go to, their white viscose pants could be lifted spectacularly out of their league by a white devoré shawl coat with dusty pink and green velvet flowers from English Eccentrics, £395, or a ravishing devoré tunic with a classical pattern in Wedgwood blue velvet on white chiffon, £450.

Georgina von Etzdorf, too, is ideal for style-conscious mothers-to-be. Her collection includes silk jersey T-shirts, £167, and dresses, £390, and an exquisite white linen kimono coat, densely swirled with tender green, £487, which might have been designed on purpose to make a girl proud to be pregnant.

● *Verbaudet 0500 332211; Formes 0181-689 1133*



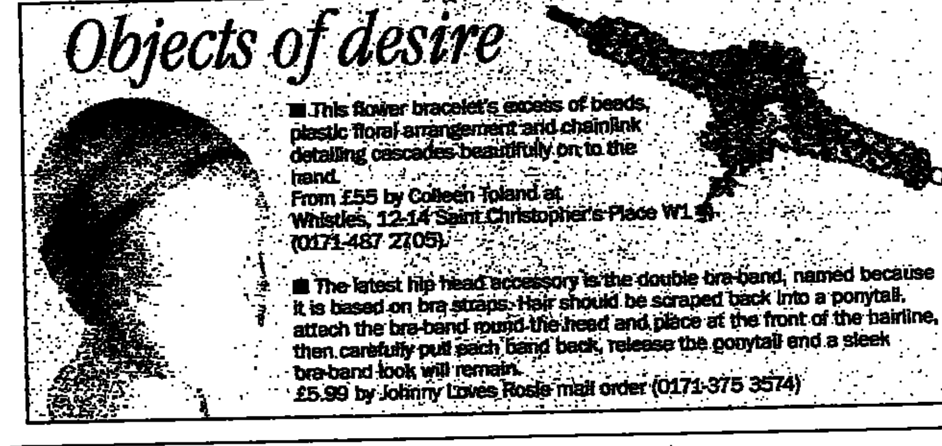
REX

Lisa Rinna, left, and Paula Yates went on wearing exactly what they have always worn



HOT TIP

Look like a zombie when waiting for face masks to dry? The answer is Bioré's quick self-heating mask, which warms up on contact with wet skin, soothing and cleaning the complexion. Don't worry about overheating — the cream turns blue after one minute of massaging. £7.50 for a pack of six from supermarkets.



Objects of desire

■ This flower bracelet's excess of beads, plastic floral arrangement and chainlink detailing cascades beautifully on to the hand.
From £55 by Colleen Toland at Whistles, 12-14 Saint Christopher's Place W1 (0171-487 2705).

■ The latest hip head accessory is the double bra-band, named because it is based on bra straps. Hair should be scraped back into a ponytail, attach the bra-band round the head and place at the front of the hairline, then carefully pull each band back, release the ponytail and a sleek bra-band look will remain.
£5.99 by Johnny Loves Rosie mail order (0171-375 3574)

Love turns bard



LAURIE SPARHAM / UIP

Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow in *Shakespeare in Love* — witty Stoppardian dialogue, the ironic use of anachronism and lots of sex

Far from providing romantic escapism, *Shakespeare in Love* is thrusting a rapier into the side of settled relationships, says Grace Bradberry

Shakespeare in Love is one of those films purpose-built for the "courting couple". Yet, as with so many of the bard's romantic comedies, there is an element of mistaken identities here. You think you're getting a light romantic pick-me-up. As a twenty or early thirty-something with intellectual pretensions, you would not *dream of putting bum on seat* for the likes of *You've Got Mail*. But with *Shakespeare in Love* you can cite witty Stoppardian dialogue and the ironic use of anachronism as justification. The appearance of Gary from *Men Behaving Badly* wearing a baggy doublet is an added bonus for men of the *Loaded* generation. Oh, and there is lots of sex, some of it involving Gwyneth Paltrow.

So, a feelgood movie all round. Well, perhaps not. There is anecdotal evidence that, far from providing therapeutic escapism, this film is thrusting a rapier into the side of relationships. Couples enter the cinema in a state of sound emotional health, and exit with seeping flesh wounds. It is less than a week since it went on general release, but in one London literary agency the blood is already on the carpet. A happily married thirty-something acquaintance reports that two of her younger colleagues have required wine-bar therapy after viewing this apparently harmless romantic comedy.

In both cases an evening at the cinema ended in a blazing row. One woman could not sleep all night, and next morning informed her boyfriend that their ten-year relationship was going nowhere. What with work deadlines, mortgages, and the scarcity of London properties with "outside space" there seemed to be neither time nor scope for balcony scenes, trysts, and above all passion.

Perhaps it's precisely *because* we live in a society that gives the illusion of there being few barriers to love — race, class, economic standing are portrayed as low hurdles to be unthinkingly leapt — that our emotional lives often bob along at a rather even pace.

Far from experiencing the *grand amour*, many of the children of the Sixties and early Seventies (the era of free love), now find themselves in what you might call "comfortable shoe" relationships. Hearing Viola (Gwyneth Paltrow), declare, "I will have poetry in my life," may be all that is needed to plunge women in warm, stable but rather becalmed partnerships headlong into crisis.

The final image of Viola walking alone on some distant shore is not the most encouraging metaphor for married life. In Elizabethan times it may have been essential to compromise in marriage, sacrificing romantic love to material and social concerns, but in a freer age surely it isn't?

> In less than a week, the blood is already on the carpet

This question lurks in the minds of thousands of young women as they teeter on the brink of marriage, but perhaps *because* we apparently have complete freedom to make the match we choose, it is rarely asked out loud. A film such as *Shakespeare in Love*, which apparently presents the real McCoy, can induce a nasty realisation that there may be *Something Missing*. Tossing and turning at 4am, it can be hard to grapple with the idea that there will *always* be something missing in a long term relationship.

As an antidote to the film, it's worth quoting one of Dorothy Parker's cynical verses. *"By the time you say you're his,/ Shivering and sighing/ And he vows his passion is/Infinite, undying — / Lady, make a note of this:/One of you is lying."* If she's even slightly right in this jaundiced view, then compromise — and a bit of fibbing — is necessary or no relationship would outlast the first stay-overs.

In fairness, the film's script has plenty of antidotes of its own. For starters, Will Shakespeare is married, a rather relevant detail that he doesn't see fit to declare to Viola. For another, the film cuts between the love scenes of Romeo and Juliet and those between Will and Viola, as though art exactly mirrored life — then undercuts this with literary jokes. The owl and the lark that make up Will and Viola's early morning conversation become the distinctly more poetic nightingale and the lark in the play. Still, it is true that Will and Viola don't spend their early mornings debating whether to get a cleaner or whose turn it is to change the duvet cover. (Viola has a nurse to sort these kinds of things out — every girl should get one.)

So, how to survive a night at the flicks with Joseph Fiennes and co? If the cement of your relationships is already riven with fissures it's best not to go at all. If it isn't, go armed with these thoughts: Viola is a virgin, Will is a married man, and these two salient facts account for a lot of the passion. Second, the man Gwyneth Paltrow is asked to marry may have many faults, but underneath it all he is still Colin Firth. Your partner too may have hidden qualities.

Third, they always make love at her place not his. The amazing manor house with *the river* approach undoubtedly contributes to the romance — in other words it has a hard, material foundation. If you junk your partner for a pauper, you will never own a property with a balcony. And finally, the film is a comedy not a tragedy — they don't die for love.

ARTS
A cultural revolution at the LPO: pages 34-37

Oh, the sweet music of Black & Decker

MAN ON THE SIDE
JOE JOSEPH

Which one us town-dwellers does not occasionally ache to be a little closer to Nature and its many breath-taking marvels, such as butterflies, the Northern Lights, and the concept "centre of gravity", the structural engineering miracle which enabled Anita Ekberg to always remain upright even though her breasts stretched so far ahead of her that they needed *their own passports when travelling*?

So imagine my delight at spotting an ad by a company called Britannia Gold offering a selection of compact discs called *Serenity* which enable us to "escape from the frustrations of modern living as the therapeutic and deeply inspiring sounds of nature, intermixed with beautiful New Age melodies, create the perfect environment for peace and tranquility". A total of ten CDs — including *The Mystic Sea, Chorus Of Whales, Tranquil Harbour*, and even *Ocean Surf* — all for only £9.99.

Serenity is clearly responding to a growing urban yearning for the sounds of Nature. BBC Radio 3 has already made its own nod to Nature by broadcasting a series consisting of nothing but sounds of wind, rain, tweeting birds and crashing waves. The soothing effect of these recordings was only slightly marred by a subsequent admission by Bob Geldof, whose production company made the programmes, that the soothing sounds we heard in *Rainfall* — remember that downpour in a tropical rainforest in Malaysia? — had been created by turning on a domestic shower in a bathroom in North London.

But we townies didn't mind because — given our empathy with Nature and our understanding of its mysteries — we didn't actually notice. In Manhattan, where Nature is something you are required by law to put in a pooper-scooper, they were so impressed they gave *Rainfall* a special radio award.

Still, the idea of sitting at home and having the world brought to you on CD is so thrilling that there's no reason to deprive people who live in the countryside of the buzz of city life. It's time Britannia produced CDs that allow farmers to "escape from the frustrations of endless greenery and bleating sheep as the therapeutic sounds of the Big Smoke create the perfect environment for tearing out your hair or even murdering your next-door neighbour with the sander attachment of his Bosch power drill".

These tapes would also be very relaxing for those townies among us who suffer withdrawal symptoms when venturing outside the M25 because of the unmistakable abundance of large animal life that seems to be roaming around without leads.

An initial selection should include a tape on which the only sound is the insistent tsk-tsk-tsk-tsk you hear leaking from the Walkman of the person sitting next to you on the Tube. The CD officially lasts for 40 minutes (that is, roughly the same time as it takes to circumnavigate the Circle Line) although there will also be an extended remix version lasting at least 85 minutes to accommodate the Circle Line's trademark signal failures and points failures.

Another CD would carry the sound of building works being undertaken just the other side of a party wall (a blend of Black & Decker, Radio One, and occasional yells, including: "Quick! Turn it off at the mains before we're flooded!"). A compilation CD would bring together the sounds of various male executives using their mobile telephones to call their secretaries from the train and say: "Hello? Sally? Simon here. Just calling to collect my messages. What *none*? OK, well you know how to get me if anyone does call."

There will also be a special set of recordings for those who find the sound of Westminster politics soothing, including a regularly updated CD in which Tony Blair pursues his policy of bypassing newspapers which distort what he is trying to say by speaking directly to each one of us in our sitting-rooms.

To end unsubstantiated tittle-tattle about what his ministers get up to, the CD will include recordings of Robin Cook at the airport telling his former wife Margaret that he has just been informed via pager message that it was time to end their marriage; another of Blair discussing with Alastair Campbell whether, on the basis of overnight focus group findings that the nation is appalled by Glenn Hoddle's views on reincarnation and the disabled, he should give a display of decisive leadership by jumping on the bandwagon and calling for Hoddle to go; and a discreet recording of Mr Blair asking his closest advisers if, given new Labour's disgust with inherited privilege, it wasn't now time for him to abolish *the Queen and perhaps replace her with* a commoner like, um, maybe himself who — only for a transitional period of 30 years — would be addressed as Your Majesty so as to maintain some sense of continuity during the move to a more democratic system.

These ten CDs will also sell for just £9.99 — though once you've heard them I'm confident that you, too, will think they sound as if they should have cost much, much less.

Tony, I've got a bone to pick

The Prime Minister should rein in his out-of-control freaks

You are 70 times more likely to win the National Lottery jackpot than to die from eating beef on the bone. You are 100 times more likely to be killed by a bolt of lightning. And you are 10,000 times more likely to be murdered. Your chances of dying in any one year from flu are one in 5,000; from eating beef on the bone, they are one in 1,000,000,000.

So you do not have to be a mathematician to realise that Nick Brown's decision to extend the ban on certain cuts of meat is hopelessly disproportionate to the risk. And it makes me wonder about Tony Blair's supposed determination to curb his ministers' bossiness.

For Downing Street is worried about the charge that it is turning Britain into a nanny state. On Monday, the Better Regulation Task Force is hosting a seminar at the Cabinet Office on risk and government intervention. Three members of Mr Blair's staff are attending. This will be followed by a private seminar of ministers, culminating in a session with the Prime Minister to discuss how to improve the handling and communication of risk.

The Government could start by treating us as adults. Since the 1950s, we have become less deferential and more confident. We care about our health, but we understand it better too. From newspaper health pages to the Internet, there is a wealth of independent information to be had.

Mary Ann Siegbart

Moreover, we are far happier to take risks that are "voluntary" than those that are forced upon us. So, for instance, we may choose to ski or to ride a horse, both of which are dangerous, while resenting air pollution which may be less harmful. An academic study has found that people are willing to accept risks some 1,000 times greater from voluntary activities than from involuntary ones that give them the same benefits.

Eating a T-bone steak is a voluntary pursuit. As long as shops attach a label informing customers that there is a minuscule risk of infection, that should be the limit of government intervention. The same is true for unpasteurised milk and vitamin B6.

But politicians and bureaucrats never seem to take the rewards into account in their obsession with reducing risk. When ministers talk about cutting deaths on the road from drink driving, they never mention the vast reduction in enjoyment and convenience that halving the drink-drive limit would cause. When they try to restrict doses of vitamin B6, they do not stop to think about the health benefits that the vitamin offers. And when they ban beef on the bone, they do not bother to quantify the pleasures lost, or indeed the livelihoods lost, from the prohibition. In other words, people balance risk and reward — politicians and bureaucrats often do not.

Nor do they accept that it can be perfectly rational to run risks that others consider unacceptable. I might well prefer to die of a coronary at 60 having enjoyed delicious food all my life than restrict myself to lettuce and bran and last a decade longer.

When there is no reward, only risk, it may often be right to intervene. There is no pleasure to be gained from drinking unsafe tap water or from having to boil it first. We all benefit when the Government ensures that tap water is drinkable.

And when the safety of others is endangered by the risks we take, there is a case for action too. So, while I believe that the Government should allow people to smoke cannabis in their homes, I do concede that it should stop them driving under the influence. But, even when others' safety is concerned, ministers should still balance rewards against risk. After all, they could eliminate deaths by banning cars altogether. But society accepts a certain amount of danger in return for the convenience of using a car.

There is no consistency to the way politicians react to risk these days. The Tories went into denial faced with the possibility that BSE might cause Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans. Labour went into a flat spin faced with the possibility that beef-on-the-bone might kill one in a billion people. Now we have the odd spectacle of Labour banning T-bone steaks but allowing genetically modified food to go ahead. The Conservatives hold exactly the opposite positions.

The Tory leader may be motivated by no more than political opportunism, but for once I side with William Hague. The risks of GM food to the environment, to birds, to insects, let alone to humans, are unknown — possibly unknowable — and potentially huge. What of the rewards? They may be great in sub-Saharan Africa, but in Britain, we produce too much food already. And here is a Government not managing an existing risk, but introducing a new risk into the country.

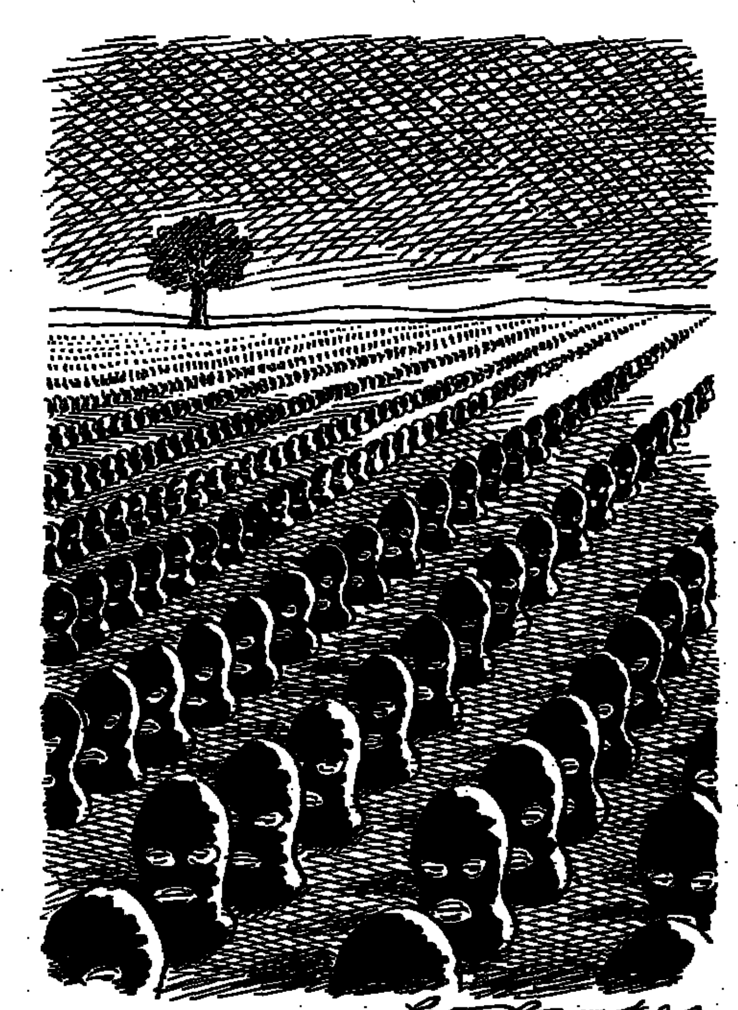
Moreover, it is a risk that individuals can neither avoid nor control. They can control the risk of salmonella by cooking their chicken properly; they can avoid the risk of CJD by eschewing beef. But people living near fields of GM crops have no choice in the matter. And we may all rue a dearth of skylarks or an infestation of insects if the introduction of GM plants disturbs the fragile balance of Britain's ecosystem.

It is time that ministers got the business of risk into proportion. They should be allowed to intervene only when the size of the risk justifies it, when the rewards do not offset it and where citizens cannot choose to avoid the risk for themselves.

Otherwise, they bring the whole regulatory system into disrepute. Politicians are always berating the public for acting neurotically in the face of food or health scares. But they can hardly expect us to be rational — and to trust them — when they are prepared to act hysterically themselves.

maryann.sieghart@the-times.co.uk





Don't blame the harlots

The press doesn't bring down public figures, weak institutions do

Get them for sex. If not sex, then try money. If the money doesn't burn, try religion. Try anything. But get them. Bring the bastards down. Each week needs a corpse, Voltaire said, to keep the English ruling class in order. Any accountability will do. Or as the Aztecs presciently pointed out, without regular human sacrifice how can you possibly maintain the circulation of the Sun?

The destruction of the England football manager Glenn Hoddle this week was an instance of "virtual" mob rule. A crowd with its blood up took a wink from the sheriff, closed on the hapless victim, kicked him to death, and then drew back in horror from the deed. Reason was immaterial. As people dispersed, they mumbled nervously that he was "a known wierdo" and had probably "given offence". They seemed briefly fearful of their power. The street was soon empty, but for a girl weeping over the corpse.

Barely a week goes by without these ritual slayings. Harriet Harman, Ron Davies, Derek Draper, Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, Charlie Whelan, Will Carling, Tom Spencer, Glenn Hoddle, a Roman Catholic bishop, a public school headmaster, anyone will do. Whatever their misdeeds, they have been selected from the ranks of the well-known or less well-known. They are hauled before a kangaroo court, where the audience demands swift, intense and dramatic justice.

The recent destruction on grounds of sex of the careers of two politicians, Ron Davies and Tom Spencer, was wholly out of proportion to their "crimes". The offences committed were to the dignity of their office, and only when revealed. Like similar fates meted out to David Mellor and a former Chief of the General Staff, private lives affected public duties only when it was shouted so loud as to become self-fulfilling. The usual justification for such intrusion, whatever the catalyst, is "hypocrisy on the part of a public figure". This is now a catch-all justification. Even if the victim has never uttered a word on sex or the family, the mere fact of being well-known renders his privacy violable. Like a pop star or a footballer, he is a "role model", preferably throwing in relief some salacious incident.

The hounding from office of Mr Mandelson and Mr Robinson was hardly different. Their private dealings merited inquiry only where it impinged on their public duties. There was clear evidence of unwisdom, but not of corruption, maladministration or theft. The decapitation of both was ludicrously severe. As for Mr Hoddle, his bizarre religious views may have caused disabled lobbyists a frosty soundbite, and evoked from Tony Blair his sofa rendering of Judge Danforth in *The Crucible*. But the lesson is alarming. Every corner of public life is subject to a neo-Stalinist code of practice, in which anyone remotely famous must guard their every word and deed on pain of a midnight knock on the door and their reputations splattered over the front page next day — with their jobs splattered the day after.

Simon Jenkins

At this point the familiar cry is to blame the press. True, the press is a dreadful court of assize. It has the instincts of a lynch mob and knows no penalty short of death. It also treats the public deeds of politicians as boring, and therefore unworthy of scrutiny, and uses their private lives to stand proxy. A statesman can be responsible for horrendous mistakes in his public life. But such mistakes are dull fare. If you want serious column inches on a Lord Chancellor or a Foreign Secretary these days, you reveal his choice of wallpaper or mistress.

Yet the power of the press to bring down public figures in this way is phoney. Baldwin's "harlots" gibe was a fallacy. The press may be without responsibility — who ever pretended otherwise? — but its power is a function only of what is granted by others. The press sacks nobody. Prime Ministers sack. Tory parties sack. Football Associations sack. They may delegate the job to the press. How often are the spin-doctors heard muttering, "pressure irresistible . . . nothing wrong but looks bad . . . rather mishandled"? But these are the words of politicians passing the buck.

One reason for the media's role as Acas of the gutter is that other conduits of government accountability have atrophied. Britain lacks de Tocqueville's "intermediate institutions of democracy", of an effective parliament, local councils, semi-independent parties. In deciding whether a colleague should resign, a Prime Minister would once have taken proper soundings. He would have consulted colleagues in Cabinet, Parliament and the party in the country. He might have asked others to investigate and not rely on "media reaction".

Political centralism has removed these mediating institutions. That Mr Davies's home base in Wales was behind him was of no account. Mr Mandelson's supporters in his department or his constituency were nothing compared with "how it looked in the press". Mr Hoddle's record as a football coach was nothing when the political spin was against him. There were no half punishments available to these men. "Must go" is stronger than "is censured" or "says sorry". The law demands great tenderness towards humble employees these days. Perhaps in reaction, we treat public figures with facile ruthlessness.

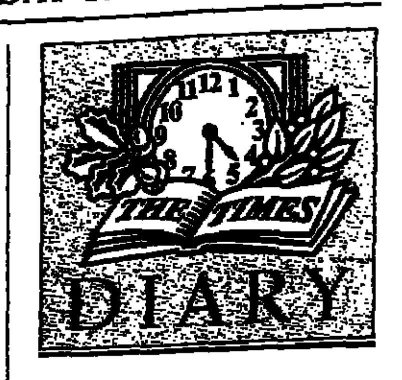
I almost respect those who survive. Robin Cook must at present conduct his duties as Foreign Secretary while his former wife discloses to the press the most intimate details of their marriage. There is no conceivable public benefit in this, only personal revenge. The intrusion on Mr Cook's privacy is monstrous and he has no defence, given the weakness of the press complaint machinery. The American philosopher Thomas Nagel, commenting on the Clinton case, recently drew attention to the need of any human personality for layers of intimacy defended by privacy. The potential for hurt in human relations is infinite, he said. An inner life is essential. So too are the inner privacies and confidences of family and friends. Public figures without such layers are hollow and probably dangerous.

These layers are protected by conventions of reticence, sometimes even of lies, which society has learnt to respect. There are "questions a man does not ask, and a lady does not answer", and vice versa. A lawyer or a journalist can tear away such conventions and shout "lies and hypocrisy". But to what good? Nagel describes as "nauseating" the current media humbug that "Americans cannot trust their leaders when that trust is damaged by a sexual lie". Every poll says that Americans do respect the conventions of privacy, even in a reprobate such as President Clinton.

When trial by ordeal was abolished by Pope Innocent III in favour of "high-tech" torture, the old guard protested. They pointed out that torture was cruel, secretive and biased to the prosecution. Ordeal had been a voluntary lie-detector test, conducted in public but with judgment postponed to await the healing process. Final decision lay with the authorities. Over half of recorded cases were acquittals. Historians came to look on "the ordeal" with favour as a check on mob justice. It worked. Trial by the press is more like torture. The prosecution is in the lead throughout. The victim can choose whether to accept guilt and execution or die on the rack. Few escape.

There is an alternative to this deplorable state of affairs. It is for those who hold democratic power to treat the press as critic but not master. The phrase, "the press made it impossible for him to stay in office" is a cry of impotence, sign of an introverted, media-obsessed political culture. Public figures should render to the public those things that are properly the public's, and take the occasional risk in doing so. They should not be held accountable to the public for their private lives or beliefs. That way they become dehumanised. But this means politics seizing back the power it has casually ceded to the press. I see no sign of it at present.

comment@the-times.co.uk



High and dry

JONATHAN AITKEN is to fly into battle with the Duke of Gloucester and Lord Hattersley to ban millenarian celebrations in Westminster.

A twin attack from a conservation group and the Westminster Society looks likely to leave Tony Blair's plan for all-night millennium drinking high and dry. The prospect of Westminster — including Trafalgar Square — being clogged with sated revellers has brought local toffs out in a flush.

"We have made our points to the council," says Sir John Bailey, chairman of the Westminster Society (run by the Duke of Gloucester and Dr Wesley Carr, the Dean of Westminster). "Our fear is that there will be 36 hours drinking *every* new year from now on."

Next month the Thorney Island Society eco-warriors (Alan Duncan, Hatters and Aitken) will discuss strategy. The Tory council is favourably inclined. Aitken has a possible escape: a stint in the clink.

● *THE secret of Ann Widdecombe's striking appearance: black dye. "Oh yes, I do have my hair coloured," she tells me. "I don't like grey. My own is white."*

Type cast?

MICK JAGGER is to play Dylan Thomas (right) in a film of the poet's life. The Rolling Stone (left), scratchy after his split from Jerry

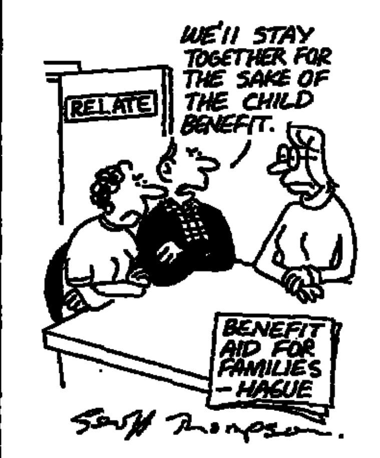


Hall, has commissioned Jagged Films (the clever name for his outfit) to make *Map of Love*, a familiar tale of turbulent affairs and binge boozing. Says a drum stick: "Mick has his eye on the part". Ah, *poetry*.

● *A RABBI and professor of Judaism is to inspire debate in NW11 by claiming that Hitler was neither mad nor evil, but rather motivated by Utopian, utilitarian ideals. Dan Cohn-Sherbok, of the University of Wales, says: "We want to present Hitler as the embodiment of evil but that's a mistake. They were idealists with a deranged ideology." Enjoy.*

Flirty Francis

FRANCIS MAUDE has invited "red" Oskar Lafontaine to the House of Commons. His plan: for Oskar to address the finance committee where he will proclaim need for tax harmonisation — pleasing, no doubt, that cautious Europhile, Gordon Brown. Francis has more stunts than Evil Knievel.



● *COULD Frank Warren be a poor loser? The boxing promoter is writing to Lord Irvine of Lairg to grumble about links between Don King's lawyers and Sir Gavin Lightman, the judge in the case that cost Warren £7 million. He moans that the judge came from the same set as Michael Briggs, the American promoter's brief. Trevor Asserson, King's solicitor, also attended the wedding of Lightman's daughter during the case. So why didn't he object earlier?*

School ties

PROUDLY *déclassé*, Sir Robin Janvrin, the Queen's new Private Secretary, differs from earlier courtiers. Like the late Sir Alan Lascelles — flunkey to three kings and the Queen — Sir Robin attended Marlborough, in contrast to Old Etonian Sir Robert Fellowes.

Sir Robin has no hang up about his education while Sir Alan was sniffy about his old school mates: "It was not merely that they knew nothing of the people I knew, but their grandfathers had been county cricketers and mine were masters of the Bramham Moor hunt."

JASPER GERARD

'Clearing out the screen of last night's crop of useless, otiose and unintelligible e-mails is like mucking out the pigsty by hand'

Fools predicted that this age would be the end of the written word. Writing was about to be replaced by the more immediate media of voice-to-voice communication on personal mobile television and Internet waffle-and-video-ins. Wrong. More people are scribbling (usually illegibly) more than ever before, for e-mail, personal publication and fax. And this popularisation of the written word is a democratic increment. But more has meant worse. Clearing the screen of last night's crop of useless, otiose and unintelligible e-mails is like mucking out the pigsty by hand not forklift, or even shovel.

This was also meant to be the end of the age of paper. We were going to live in homes and offices without paper, where we would communicate by electronic screen and voice. Wrong again. Ever vaster daily avalanches of paper bury us at home and at work. I do not want the Royal Bank of Scotland to invent exciting new accounts that will win me discounts in restaurants, on foreign holidays and for accident insurance. Particularly I do not want them to waste my money on glossy and turgid packages (with "free gifts" of key-rings) advertising their new offer to longstanding and valued customers. Most particularly, I do not want Dalek Irish underpaid voices to cold-call me on the telephone to ask whether I have read the package. Who has time to read such a mountain of crap? It goes straight into the Moloch merry-go-round for recycling.

All that I want from my bank is that it puts up with my overdraft and does not humiliate me publicly at the hole-in-the-wall. The same, *mutatis mutandis* (an economical Latin phrase that deserves to be preserved, even by Philistine new lawyers) goes for insurance companies, the National Trust, British Telecom and all other firms that assume that punters have nothing better to do than to read their newsletters and special offers just for you, Mr Mug. They should stick to their lasts. The prose is so turgid and complacent that it must have been written by senior management. Like cinema companies, they are too mean and too thick to engage professionals to write their screenplays or special offer puffs.

Philip Howard

Paper will tolerate anything. Even special offers to longstanding and valued customers written by the MD with the help of the chairman and a team of marketing advisers. American universities which deal in early drafts and casual words, while their university presses stop publishing poetry by living authors, would starve the horse to death and prize his turds. So our age suffers from a mountain of misused and unread paper.

It is a bitter irony that while we moderns groan under this paper mountain, we are allowing some of the oldest and most interesting paper in the world to decay. As Richard Owen has reported for us, excavation of the lost Vesuvian library under Herculaneum has ceased. Funds have run out because of Italian political wrangling. One third of the villa has been excavated, producing nearly 2,000 papyrus scrolls of early Greek philosophy and lit crit. They were packed in boxes, presumably for evacuation as Vesuvius erupted in AD79. Who knows what lost treasures lie in the Latin library in the two terraces that are still buried beneath the lava and hardened tufa of 19 centuries?

Philodemus, who collected the libraries, was the teacher of Virgil, friend of Horace, admired by Ovid, imitated by Propertius. Even Cicero, who prosecuted for corruption Piso, the owner of the magnificent villa, admired his guest and librarian, Philodemus.

There is gold in those old papers. Diggers have already found some Lucretius (confirming an emendation by Housman), Ennius and two acts of a comedy by Caecilius Statius (the Roman equivalent of Tom Stoppard). They are now threatened by water flooding into the excavation, which looks like a gravel pit. They are threatened by fire. Vesuvius is not dead. It is spewing smoke and magma as alarmingly as it does in Ingres's portrait of Caroline Murat, Queen (if it needs one) of Naples.

Archaeologists do not value old paper as much as the boat and Temple of the Muses they have found. But the charred paper under Herculaneum is literally priceless. If the Italians cannot raise the money to excavate it, the Getty Museum at Malibu (modelled on the Villa of the Papiri) should pay for it. Or Unesco. Or the Royal Bank of Scotland. If they found poems by Virgil or Horace, the find would repay the excavation a million times. But this project is not about profit. Let us hope that the paper we leave for 4000AD contains more than special offers for valued customers.





THE BLAME GAME

Republicans distance themselves from a faltering peace

There is only one obvious response to the IRA's admission that renegade republicans have appropriated its weapons. Why weren't they decommissioned before? Throughout the peace process the IRA and Sinn Fein have insisted that requests for the decommissioning of illegal weapons were distractions. As long as political progress sustained their ceasefire, they argued, then Unionist concerns were mischievous and misplaced. But now we know that groups such as the dissidents behind the Omagh bombing were using material from IRA stockpiles. The republican objections to decommissioning were always an affront to democracy. Now, by the IRA's own admission, the refusal to decommission has led directly to the murder of innocents.

Why, then, did the IRA choose to make this announcement? The answer lies in the faltering progress of the peace process. Republicans realise the Good Friday Agreement is under strain, and they are responsible. The wave of recent punishment beatings, more properly thought of as targeted terrorist torture, has undermined faith in the willingness of paramilitaries to embrace democracy. The continued campaign of intimidation has stiffened Unionist resolve not to accept republican participation in Northern Ireland's new Government without decommissioning. Quite rightly, they object to sharing power with armed thugs whose answer to dissent is the cocked armalite. The refusal of the IRA and loyalists to abandon the gun could bring the peace process to a stuttering halt.

Republicans are particularly desperate to avoid the culpability for such a failure. And yesterday's statement was a choreographed move in their dance away from blame. By announcing that its own weapons were in the hands of renegades which it claimed not to be able to control, the IRA sought to suggest that it could not be held responsible for recent casualties. The statement was also calculated, paradoxically, to bolster the position of the Sinn Fein leadership by drawing attention to a weakness. Emphasising the existence, and offensive capacity, of dissident republicans makes it easier for Gerry Adams to argue that he cannot move too fast. Ask too much of me, he seeks to suggest, and these hotheads will go further.

The Government must be alive to the cynical intent behind the IRA's words. It can do so by making clear that there is no question where blame lies for Ulster's enduring misery. The IRA has, in the past, dealt ruthlessly with dissent and is manipulating the existence of "renegades" to escape its responsibilities. It cannot be allowed to evade responsibility for the use of its arms, and it must not be allowed to duck the requirement of decommissioning.

Ministers cannot wait upon events. Northern Ireland's new executive is due to be formed on March 10. There is no prospect of Unionist participation without a handover of IRA arms. Instead of calling upon all sides to make sacrifices, the Government should emphasise that the only real obstacle to progress is paramilitary obduracy. A moratorium on prisoner releases while the punishment beatings continue would be a suitable sign of resolution. Ministers would then carry greater conviction when they say, as they must, that no executive will be called into being until decommissioning begins.

Northern Ireland's First Minister-Designate, David Trimble, has travelled well in advance of his party to agree far-reaching changes which would grant nationalist Ireland an historically momentous role in the running of Ulster. He cannot be faulted for courage. If ministers refuse to lay the blame for the looming impasse at the IRA's door now then they must expect to share the responsibility for tragic failure.

CONVICTION POLITICS

The Senate will not benefit from an extended Clinton trial

There may be no exact American equivalent of the phrase "time to draw stumps" but with that sentiment the Senate should seek to conclude the trial of President Clinton. Senators are currently engaged in a series of debates and votes that will decide whether their inquiry ends next week or continues for an unknown duration. Testimony has been taken from Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal and the video-tape has been seen by every member of the Senate. There is no reason to believe that any vital new material has emerged nor that more would if the exercise were repeated on the floor of the chamber. The Senate should come to a decision.

This is not to suggest that Mr Clinton's lawyers have produced compelling arguments that he is innocent of perjury or obstruction of justice. The managers from the House of Representatives outlined a powerful case against the President. The defence of Mr Clinton consisted of the claim that the charges he faced were "vague" and that he might have perjured himself in the original Paula Jones case but not in the grand jury appearance that is formally cited in the articles of impeachment. Beyond that, the White House has sought to contrast the gender and racial diversity of its legal team with the uniformly white, male, conservative House prosecutors — as if this had the remotest relevance to Mr Clinton's legal standing.

Nor has it been demonstrated that the case against the President falls short of the "high crimes and misdemeanours" required for his conviction. In the 1980s Senators expelled three federal judges from the bench on the issue of perjury. In one case, the individual concerned had actually been acquitted at the criminal trial in which his allegedly false evidence was submitted. In another, Harry Claiborne lost his position in 1986 for knowingly understating his income on a tax return. One Senator said then that "an individual guilty of such reprehensible conduct ought not to be permitted to exercise the awesome powers which the Constitution entrusts to (him)." Al Gore appears to have changed his mind on such matters 13 years later.

There is no reason in theory why a President and federal judge should be treated differently. In political practice, however, critical distinctions exist between them. There is but one President and that individual is elected by the entire nation. The framers of the American Constitution did not design and did not desire a presidency based on direct democratic selection. This, though, is the nature of the institution that the Senate today faces. Kenneth Starr has put forward the material against Mr Clinton; Congress has provided it a very prominent platform; Americans have chosen to spurn every single opportunity to endorse it.

A further extension of this trial will not alter anything. The votes do not exist to convict Mr Clinton. It may be, should be, upsetting for Republicans to see the words of George Washington upstaged by the opinion polls of George Gallup. They must nonetheless prepare an exit strategy. This should not be a "finding of the facts" motion that deems Mr Clinton guilty but keeps him in the Oval Office. That device is blatantly unconstitutional. If a majority of Senators does not want to award Mr Clinton the undue satisfaction of an acquittal then they should adjourn his trial indefinitely. Mr Starr will have his chance to pursue the President in the criminal courts but would be wise to wait until his term is completed. The Senate should decide to leave him to it.

WOMEN'S ROCK

A chance to meet the Casanovas of the crofts

When the Romans were languishing for want of womenfolk they adopted blunt tactics: they swiped their neighbours' wives and unsuspecting Sabines found themselves seized from their ringside seats as they sat admiring the gladatorial games. What proved a perfectly effective method for the ancients sits ill at ease with modern tastes. Less bellicose populations must adopt more diplomatic methods. And the lonesome inhabitants of Scotland's Outer Isles, where men enormously outnumber women, have turned to EU bureaucrats instead. A European Community grant of some £700,000 is being made to lure women to the Hebrides.

The sparse, windswept landscapes of North Uist and the adjoining Benbecula support a scattered and scanty population. The traditional crofter's or fisherman's life is harsh. Working days are long and lonely, social life is limited and usually based around the copious consumption of alcohol. There are only basic supply shops and no cinema. The weekly shopping must be wheeled by barrow across boggy moors. Although outsiders may find this remoteness quaint or romantic, those brought up to such rigour find in it small allure.

Girls who leave school and travel to the mainland for further education are beguiled by the city. Others see marriage to an outsider — to soldiers from the Benbecula barracks, or holidaymakers, even — as a passport to freedom. And with a dwindling female population, a traditional mode of life will eventually wither and disappear as it did on St Kilda which, evacuated in the 1930s, is now home only to the puffins and fulmars which nest on its steep cliffs.

The proposed EU grant to North Uist and Benbecula is intended to coax new businesses to the islands, or tempt already established ones to relocate. Women will be especially encouraged to take up the proffered funds. Advances in technology make some schemes increasingly viable. Whether mainland incomers will be tempted into wedlock by an army of raddled batchelors is unlikely. The shy Casanovas of the crofts will first have to update their ideas about sexual equality. Many contemporary woman will not be prepared to stay meekly at home attending to the crowdie and the cows, washing, cooking and rearing children, while the menfolk down drams in the nearest pub. But, if an EU grant succeeds in attracting not only women but whole families to these rocky outcrops, it will have fulfilled its most valuable purpose, a relevant and diverse economy where a community now dwindles and dies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Mayhem in Ulster police no-go areas

From Mr James Bell

Sir, Martin Fletcher reports today on Vincent McKenna, another former IRA man who has turned away from violence and now faces injury, possibly death, at the hands of his former comrades. *The Times* is right to highlight his story, and that of Sean O'Callaghan who finds himself in the same dreadful situation (article, January 26).

There is irony — yet also, I believe, hope — in the fact that I, an expat Ulster Protestant, can find myself in total accord with the perceptions, hopes and fears of ex-IRA activists.

That such concordance between us — and, I suspect, many tens of thousands of so-called ordinary people in Northern Ireland — should be in any way surprising is simply another aspect of the general indifference towards affairs in Ulster that most UK citizens and most politicians exhibit daily. We are all tired of the anodyne reporting of the starts and stops of the so-called "peace process".

It is beyond belief that Messrs Adams and McGuinness can plead a "policing vacuum" as the cause of the barbarous thuggery being practised on both sides of the sectarian divide. Were it to be more widely known in the rest of the UK, where there are no no-go areas, that there are places in Ulster where our police force is afraid (or forbidden) to go, there would be public outrage.

Why do our political masters not only tolerate this situation, but now actively condone it by letting yet more thugs loose every day?

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this Government is more concerned with its footnote in history as having, at last, solved the "Irish problem". Well, history is a harsh judge and may well conclude that Blair's Government succumbed to the threats and blandishments of a bunch of gangsters, and left the vast majority of the citizens of Ulster as forgotten citizens of the United Kingdom.

I remain, your obedient,
if perplexed servant,
JAMES BELL,
26 Parson's Mead,
Flax Bourton, Bristol BS48 1UH.
February 4.

Institutional racism

From Canon Ivor Smith-Cameron

Sir, The Metropolitan Police Service has been accused of institutional racism (letters, January 30). Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner, refused to accept that charge at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry last July, although he as good as admits to it in his interview today with Vanora Bennett: "Is there racism in the police? Yes. Is it more than a few bad apples? Yes."

As a member of the Church of England I have long believed it to suffer from institutional racism, and this has spurred me to work to eradicate this blemish. I do not believe that my loyalty and devotion to the Church and her members have been impaired.

Unless we acknowledge what is wrong with us it is impossible to be able to do anything about it. Acknowledging a fault in an institution does not necessarily imply any disloyalty to its members.

Yours sincerely,
IVOR SMITH-CAMERON
(Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen),
100 Prince of Wales Drive, SW11 4BD.
February 2.

Police commended

From Dr Muriel G. Yates

Sir, Last week, as the mother of one of the commended officers, I had the privilege of attending the Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner's commendation ceremony, 2 Area (North West). It was a delightful family occasion, with an air of informality mixed with the seriousness of the event.

As I listened to the reading of the citations listing the devotion to duty, professionalism, and sheer bravery of these young officers, all going far beyond the call of duty, I asked myself why we do not hear more about these things. Why is it always the mistakes and misdemeanours of the very few which reach the press and television?

I felt very proud that day, and extremely grateful to all these men and women in our police forces throughout the country who contribute so much to making Britain a better and safer place to live in.

Yours sincerely,
MURIEL G. YATES,
7 Church Gardens, Ealing, W5 4HH.
January 27.

Euro 'target date'

From Mr Neil Kinnock

Sir, I haven't "called on the Government to set a target date for joining the euro" (report, January 30). In answer to questions about Mr Alan Donnelly's proposal to that effect, I've said that his call was a good way of stimulating debate but that, apart from its unlikelihood, the practicality of such a stratagem was very doubtful.

Yours,
NEIL KINNOCK,
The European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels.
February 1.

Karma and the judgment of God

From the Reverend Canon John Halliburton, Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral

Sir, For reasons not fully understood by most of us, Glenn Hoddle has resorted to the wisdom of the East in order to answer that eternal question, why do the innocent suffer (letters, February 1, 3 and 4).

He has chosen the well-known path, which attributes human suffering to human misconduct, a position taken up by Job's three friends as recorded in the Old Testament, but which was seriously challenged by Job's contemporaries and by many after him. Belief in retribution in this life consequent upon failures in a previous existence certainly does not belong to the contemporary Christianity to which Mr Hoddle is said to have become committed.

Those of us who have lived through the memories of the Holocaust and the horrors of modern genocide and the abuse of human rights will know that belief in the goodness of God and the ultimate purpose of creation has been seriously damaged by those who have adopted the view that human suffering is the consequence of human sin.

Millions today now do not believe in God because he did not come to the rescue of the victims of Auschwitz, nor does he seem to visit the torture camps of Latin America and beyond.

It would appear that Hoddle has no theology of the God who suffers beside us, goes with us into the gas chamber, suffers with us in the prison yards of South America. His God is, apparently, not the Christ of Calvary, only the God who sits in judgment and condemns people for their weakness and their indiscretions.

Whom would your readers choose? The Christ of Calvary who loves the penitent thief, or the Judge who condemns his victims to a wheelchair and tells them that it is their fault that they cannot walk?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HALLIBURTON,
Chancellor,
St Paul's Cathedral,
1 Amen Court, EC4M 7BU.
yhu99@dial.pipex.com
February 4.

From Mr Ganesh Lall

Sir, Karma is the spiritual equivalent of the physical law of cause and effect. In the exercise of free will each individual, and no one else, is held responsible for the consequence of his or her action. God does not enter the equation.

Hinduism does not believe in sin and punishment, only in errors and the correction of errors. It is not judgmental. Hindu belief in karma is on all fours with the Judaic religions: where it parts company is in extending the belief to govern the progress of preceding and succeeding lives. This is consistent with the belief of Hindus in the spiritual evolution of the soul until it becomes one with the Universal Spirit in the state of Nirvana.

Incidentally, karma represents progression, not regression. Humans do not come back as animals, only with some of their traits.

I am, yours respectfully,
GANESH LALL,
7 Burrow Walk, SE21 8LY.

From Professor Ian Markham

Sir, It is important to distinguish between Hoddle's view of disability and the belief in reincarnation and karma that underpinned it. Plenty of Hindus would want to dissociate themselves from the former but affirm the latter.

In our increasingly diverse society, it would be outrageous to end up with a situation in which a Hindu could not be appointed as England coach.

Sincerely,
IAN MARKHAM
(Liverpool Professor of Theology and Public Life),
Liverpool Hope University College,
Hope Park, Liverpool L16 9JT.
February 1.

From Dr L. L. Katan

Sir, If football can become a religion (as it has), why should not religion become a political football?

Yours,
LEO KATAN,
14 Ingram House, Park Road,
Hampton Wick, Surrey KT1 4BA.
February 2.

Hoddle trouble

From Mr Michael Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, You report today that Glenn Hoddle publicly admitted making a "serious error of judgment" that had caused pain to a number of people, for which he apologised, and (later editions) that he "is now expected to receive a £500,000 payoff, representing the remaining 18 months of his contract".

If this "serious error of judgment" was a breach of his contract with the FA, it is completely unacceptable that the FA is considering paying him what he would have received under his contract had he stayed.

If it was not a breach of his contract, those running the FA are even more incompetent than they have appeared from the past few years.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL VARCOE-COCKS,
5 Brackenbury Road, W6 0BE.
February 3.

From Mr Don Bradbury

Sir, Half a million pounds for doing nothing for 18 months: nice work if you can get it. My word, how badly we treat our failures in this country. Hoddle couldn't have organised it better if he'd tried.

Yours faithfully,
DON BRADBURY,
6 Solway Rise, Dronfield Woodhouse,
Sheffield S18 8ZR.

From Mrs Tricia Morgan

Sir, As an American, I hold the freedom of speech to be one of the most fundamental of human rights. I find it astonishing — frightening, really — that I am living in a land where someone can be sacked for expressing his religious beliefs.

It is just such intolerance in this country that led to the founding of my own nation. I am dismayed to find that such attitudes still prevail.

Yours sincerely,
TRICIA MORGAN,
44 Peppard Road, Maidenbower,
Crawley, West Sussex RH10 7QS.
lem.morgan@btinternet.com
February 2.

From Ms Belinda Hayter-Hames

Sir, It is extraordinary that the only people allowed complete freedom of speech nowadays are the media.

Yours faithfully,
BELINDA HAYTER-HAMES,
5 Moray Place, Edinburgh EH3 6DS.
February 3.

From Mr Ken Broad

Sir, I was astounded to read some of the things Howard Wilkinson said yesterday, as reported by Matt Dickinson in your sports pages today.

Just how much longer do we have to put up with this man as caretaker manager of the England team? Surely the time has come for him to go — and go quickly I say!

Yours sincerely,
KEN BROAD,
Manor Court, Church Aston,
Newport, Shropshire TF10 9JJ.
February 4.

Winter fuel payments

From Dr Gary Kitchen

Sir, Sally Levett (letter, January 23) is right to suggest that elderly people would be reluctant to take winter fuel payments from the State if left to claim for themselves. This resistance is very marked in relation to means-tested benefits such as income support, where up to a million pensioners do not claim their entitlement.

There is more at stake here than simple pride. The decline of the pension is an important factor in fuel poverty. In our experience pensioners believe it to be wrong that the basic state pension has been allowed to dwindle over the years against average earnings, to the extent that, in April, for a single pensioner it will be far below the income support level of £75. What was the point in their making a lifetime of national insurance contributions if not to earn the right to an adequate basic pension on retirement? And how can a pension level below the poverty safety net be thought adequate?

Our view is that the basic pension level should be raised in April to at least the income support personal allowance, as a first step towards rectifying this injustice.

Yours sincerely,
GARY KITCHEN
(National Organiser),
National Pensioners Convention,
47 Chalton Street, NW1 1HY.
pensioner@compuserve.com
January 25.

From Sir Ronald McIntosh

Sir, I imagine that the great majority of better-off pensioners will applaud Professor Elkan's suggestion (letter, January 16) that they should pass on to an appropriate charity the winter fuel payments they receive from the Department of Social Security. Some already do this: probably many more support the idea in principle but for one reason or another do not get around to doing anything about it.

Before making winter fuel payments the department sends every pensioner a letter giving details of the amount involved and other relevant information. I hope that on the next occasion it may be willing to give pensioners who feel they do not need the payment the option to ask for it to be paid instead to a charitable fund which can ensure that it reaches those who do.

I am sure that the established charities for the elderly would be glad to administer such a scheme, which could attract a substantial sum of money every winter. It would certainly give more effective help to those in need than the present arrangement does, at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD McINTOSH,
24 Ponsonby Terrace, SW1P 4QA.
January 24.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Minimum wage threat to charities

From the Reverend David Weekes

Sir, The National Minimum Wage Act comes into force in just over two months' time. I write to publicise the plight of young people who are engaged by charities as volunteer workers.

As well as nationals, young people from overseas have been able to enjoy an experience of working for a charity in Britain for up to one year through a long-standing concession outside the immigration rules.

Unless the present draft regulations are suitably amended, this kind of opportunity will no longer be economically viable. The Act will not allow us to continue with our present residential remuneration package in cash and kind (which is exactly tailored to this kind of opportunity). The total value of such emoluments is already in excess of what will be required in cash by the NMW.

Moreover, the Act would actually force us to pay such workers a package with a total value of around 50 per cent above the NMW, since although it is greatly to their advantage that our volunteer workers must be residential the regulations only allow a deduction for payments in kind of £20 per week for accommodation.

It is not practical for us to give our volunteers less benefit in kind than accommodation, heat, light and all meals and snacks. We calculate that the present cash value of this is about £85 per week. Unless the regulations are amended, the Act will effectively require us to pay each volunteer the value of such benefits worth at least £65 per week on top of the NMW.

Many charities are in jeopardy because of an Act which was presumably intended to address completely different issues. Members of religious communities may be equally at risk for similar reasons. Certainly au pairs seem to be adversely affected (letters, January 27 and 30).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEEKES
(Warden), Lee Abbey
International Students' Club,
57-67 Lexham Gardens, W8 6JJ.
January 30.

'Grey-power' cars

From Mr Stirling Moss

Sir, I was surprised to read (January 27) that I am helping to build the first motor car designed for the ageing driver. I must apologise to your reporter for the confusion I appear to have caused him with regard to my involvement in this research project.

I was happy to be asked by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers to help them draw attention to the launch of a programme they are funding at Sunderland University into the research of automotive ergonomics for the older driver. In a year's time, I hope I will again be present when they report on their findings.

Ageing drivers are a population group that is growing — both numerically and as a proportion of overall road users — and, as such, the merits of taking a measured approach to meet their changing needs are obvious. Adjusting aspects of car access, seating, controls, instruments and outside view could assist in making cars easier, more comfortable and, above all, safer to drive.

At no time would I suggest that sports cars should be turned into invalid carriages; only that mainstream models should take account of the older driver, ultimately to the benefit of us all. Like it or not, if not there already, inevitably we will all, one day, become that "older driver".

Yours faithfully,
STIRLING MOSS,
46 Shepherd Street, W1Y 8JN.
January 28.

Near miss

From Mr Alfred Brendel, Hon KBE

Sir, According to your paper (January 30), Goethe, whose 250th birthday anniversary is celebrated by the "Teutonic world" (read: the German-speaking countries), was a "near-genius".

May I suggest that you call Richard III a near-villain, and the earthquake in Colombia a near-disaster?

Yours etc,
ALFRED BRENDEL,
c/o Ingpen & Williams,
26 Wadham Road, SW15 2LR.
February 1.

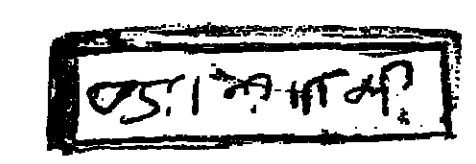
Knot rated

From Professor Ian Fells

Sir, I was disappointed that your article on ties ("Does a bit of cloth round the neck still inspire respect?", February 1) made no mention of bow-ties. I have worn one ever since I was a research student when a normal tie tended to fall into my experimental equipment. I have since introduced them to my surgeon friends who do not like to get blood on their ties when dealing with emergencies.

The only downside is the assumption, occasionally made by TV interviewers and the like, that one is either an architect or a Liberal Democrat or both.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FELLS,
29 Rectory Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 1YB.
February 1.





COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
February 4: The Queen has been graciously pleased, on the retirement of Sir Robert Fellowes, to appoint Sir Robin Janvrin Private Secretary. Mrs Mary Francis Deputy Private Secretary and Mr Tim Hitchens Assistant Private Secretary to Her Majesty.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 4: The Prince of Wales this morning was represented at the Funeral of Mrs Ulrica Murray-Smith at Loughborough Crematorium, Leicestershire, by Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Miller.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Duke of York, Patron, The London Contemporary Dance Trust, visited The Place, London WC1, to meet the new Chairman and view rehearsals.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 4: The Princess Royal this afternoon visited the Soho Centre for Health and Care, 29-30 Soho Square, Westminster, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, The 1999 World Schools Debating Championships, this evening attended a Reception at the Locarno Suite, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, Westminster, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Royal Ballet, this afternoon attended the Ursula Moreton Choreographic Competition at the Royal Ballet School, Talgarth Road, London, W14.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 4: The Duke of Kent, Chairman, this evening attended a farewell dinner for the National Electronics Council at Savoy Place, London WC2.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will visit Park Farm, Wellow, Nottinghamshire at 10.30; will open the new Clarendon College, Nottingham, at 11.45; will visit the Macedon Trust's Albion Nightshelter, Nottingham, at 1.35; and will visit the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, at 2.35, to open the new multi-faith centre and the new parents overnight stay unit.

The Princess Royal, as president, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, will attend a luncheon at Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, at noon; will open the Edinburgh Academy's Sports Complex, 42 Henderson Row, Edinburgh, at 2.10; will be admitted an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street, at 4.20; and will attend a dinner for Marie Curie Cancer Care at Edinburgh Castle at 7.50.

The Duke of Kent will visit Blease Anaesthesia Systems, Beech House, Chiltern Court, Chesham, Buckinghamshire; and as patron, the Stoke Mandeville Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Research Trust, will attend a luncheon and seminar at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury.

Birthdays today

Sir Robert Atkins, former MP, 53; Sir Norman Blacklock, urologist, 71; Mr Jasper Clutterbuck, former non-executive chairman, Morland and Company, 64; Major-General Sir Simon Cooper, Master of HM's Household, 63; Mr Ian Findlay, former chairman, Lloyd's, 81; Lord Gibson, 83; Mrs Molly Hattersley (Lady Hattersley), educationist, 68; Miss Susan Hill, novelist and playwright, 57; the Hon Douglas Hogg, QC, MP, 54; General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, 69; Mr M.E.P. Jones, director, National Museums of Scotland, 48; Mr Dennis Kennedy, former chairman and managing director, Honeywell, 64; Lord Justice Morritt, 61; Professor A.M. Neville, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Dundee University, 76; Dr Elizabeth Neville, Chief Constable of Wiltshire, 46; Miss Charlotte Rampling, actress, 53; Canon Colin Semper, former Provost of Coventry, 61; Sir Michael Simpson-Orlebar, former diplomat, 67; Sir Rodney Sweetnam, former president, Royal College of Surgeons, 72; Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, 58; Sir Leslie Young, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 74.

Sherborne School for Girls

Scholarship Awards for September 1999

The following girls have been awarded Scholarships from September 1999:

Academic Scholarships
First Scholarships: Rose Beer, Hazelgrove House; Katherine Suttle, Sherborne Preparatory School.
Second Scholarships: Harriet Hawksley, Port Regis; Philippa de Fonblanque, King's Hall.
Third Scholarship: Felicia Line, Salisbury Cathedral School.
Exhibition: Harriet Newman, Mount House School.

Music Scholarships
Major Scholarships: Charlotte Newman, Sherborne School for Girls; Felicia Line, Salisbury Cathedral School.
Minor Scholarships: Harriet Newman, Mount House School; Erika Maude, Home taught.
Exhibitions: Harriet Hawksley, Port Regis; Kristabelle Williams, Sherborne School for Girls.

Art Scholarships
Major Art Award: Rosanna Major, Chafyn Grove School.
Minor Art Award: Rosanne Whalley, Millfield Preparatory School.

Sixth Form Scholarships
Major Scholarships: Aliette Boshier, Millfield School; Olga Voronina, Sherborne School for Girls.
Minor Scholarship: Cornelia Browne, Sherborne School for Girls.

Reception

English-Speaking Union
The Princess Royal, Patron of the World Schools Debating Championships, attended a reception held yesterday in the Locarno Suite, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman of the ESU, which organised the championships, was the host. Lady Brigstocke and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general, received the guests who included the Premier of Bermuda and Members of the Diplomatic Corps.

V&A fights to keep statue of Charles I

By Dalya Alberge
Arts Correspondent

THE Victoria and Albert Museum is desperately appealing for help to prevent an historic bronze bust of Charles I from leaving Britain.

The sculpture, which is just 7in high, dates from the mid-1630s and is the only known bust of the king by the Anglo-Italian sculptor Francesco Fanelli, whose title was Sculptor to the King.

Paul Williamson, chief curator of sculpture at the V&A, described it as the "finest sculptural likeness of the monarch to survive", a work of "exceptional quality".

Unless £240,000 is raised by April 18, observers fear the bust will go abroad. The Getty Museum in California is a likely destination.

The sculpture, which has never been exhibited in public before, has emerged 350 years after Charles I was beheaded.

It has been hidden away in private collections throughout its life. Exactly when it entered the collection of the Ionides family, which is selling it to cover inheritance tax, is unclear. The family, from whom the V&A received an important bequest of paintings, drawings and watercolours in 1900, is so keen to see the bust remain in Britain that it has loaned it to the V&A until April 18.

Through a private treaty sale, the price to the V&A would be £240,000. With grants from the art charity, the National Art Collections Fund, and elsewhere, the museum is £60,000 short of its target. If the museum fails to meet the April deadline, the work reverts to its market price of £350,000.

Fanelli was one of two royal artists, said Dr Williamson. The other was Hubert Le Sueur who was "nothing like as good", he said, but had "an inflated idea of his own importance". Fanelli's depiction is closest to Van Dyck's striking portraits.

Dr Williamson said that the "exact role played by Fanelli as royal sculptor . . . is mysterious as no records of large-scale commissions for the King survive; instead, his *oeuvre* consists primarily of small bronzes." The King is known to have particularly favoured small bronzes.

Documentary evidence, which first mentions him in 1605 in Genoa producing works in marble, silver, ivory and bronze, shows that he was working at the English court by 1635, when he received a pension from the King. His title, Sculptor to the King, was one he clearly liked to use: he inscribed it on the pedestal of a bronze bust of the ten-year-old Prince of Wales, later King Charles II, at Welbeck Abbey.



RICHARD CANNON

Dr Williamson, of the V&A, carefully carries the little bust of Charles I by Francesco Fanelli, which has been in private collections since its creation

Memorial service

Sir William Stuttaford
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Royden Stuttaford, former Chairman of the Unit Trusts Association and President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, was held yesterday at the Church of St Margaret, Lothbury. The Rev Tom Farrell officiated and the Rev Robin Elphick led the prayers.

Lord Wakeham read the lesson. Mr Tim Miller read *Remember* by Christina Rossetti and Mr William Stuttaford, son, read *Footprints*. Dr Tom Stuttaford, brother, gave an address. Among others present were:

Lady Stuttaford (widow), Mr Dominick Stuttaford (son), Mr and Mrs Justin Shingles and Mr and Mrs Anthony Morris-Eyton (sons-in-law and daughters), Mr Angus Grahame (stepson), Mr and Mrs Alexander Lewis (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter), Mrs Thomas Stuttaford (sister-in-law), Mr Thomas Stuttaford, Mr and Mrs John Curteis and Mr and Mrs B Purbrick (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law), Mr and Mrs Tim Purbrick, Mrs D Grahame, Miss E Grahame.

Viscount Gough, Lady Wakeham, Lord Ellenborough, Lord Farnham, Lord Lane of Horsell, Lord Feldman, Lord Jenkin of Roding, Lord Pender, Lord and Lady Gray, the Hon C T C Law (group chairman, Towry Law Group) with Mr Douglas Black (chief executive); the Hon Michael Benson (representing the Chairman of Amvescap).

The Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, and Mrs Jenkin, the Hon Robert and Mrs Boscawen, Sir Martin Wedgewood, Sir Alastair and Lady Stewart, Lady Salt, Sir Christopher Royden, Sir John B Hall, Sir Jeremy and Lady Elwes, Sir Alistair and Lady Mackechnie, Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Sir Graham Macmillan, Sir Anthony Garner, Sir John Morgan, Sir John Banham, Sir Patrick and Lady Lawrence, Sir Joseph and Lady Barnard, Sir Robin Dent, Sir Andrew and Lady Stark, Sir Jeffery and Lady Bowman, Mr John and Lady Margaret Glasse.

Mrs David Wamey, Mr Denzil Freeth, Mr Mark Ritmer, Mr Peter Sedgwick, Mr J Michael Hoare, Mr Christopher Stewart-Smith, Mr and Mrs Martin Brunt, Mr and Mrs Robert Banks, Mr J F Cullis, Mr A K S Franks, Mr Angus Ivory, Major-General and Mrs John Willis, Mr and Mrs Michael Pontifex, Mr John Whittingdale, MP, Miss Audrey Head, Mr Malaise Reid-Scott, Mr Toby de Lotbiniere, Mr Hugh Mellor, Mr Richard Spring, MP, Miss Jacqui Lait, Mr Howard Flight, MP, the Rev G Bonham Carter, Mrs Charles Kennedy, Mr and Mrs John Holroyd, Dr A Niven, Miss Karenza Boscawen.

Dr and Mrs A McL Morrison, Mrs Brian Edwards, Mr Ian Butler, Mr Tim Loughton, MP, Mr Tom Durie, Mr Tim Ireland, Mr Mark Ireland, Mr J Ireland, Miss Clare Ireland, Ms Joanna Collingwood, Mr and Mrs M Tollemache, Mr and Mrs John Arkell, Mr David Knapp, Mr Trevor Jones, Mr Robert Bruce, Dr A Yates, Mr and Mrs Roderick Playfair, Mr Christopher Bomford, Professor and Mrs Peter Grootenhuis, Ms Diana Banks, Mr John Cox, Mr J Dent, Mr R Bateman.

Mr Chris Poole (secretary, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations) with other members of the association; Mr Mark Powell (chief executive, Rathbone Laurence Keen) with past and present members of the group: Mr Christopher Taylor-Young (Taylor-Young Management Investment).

Mr Roger Adams (executive director, Closed End Funds, Warburg Dillon Read), Mr Graham Ross Russell (chairman, Securities Institute), Mr Joseph Atijosan (managing director, Jolamy), Mr John Manser (chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings), Mr R D Lindsay-Rea (secretary, The Rayne Foundation), Ms Diana Graves (Lee & Pembertons), Mr Simon Toynbee (senior fund manager, Majedie Investments).

Mr Tim R Bacon (Columbus Asset Management), Mr Anthony Nott (director, Jupiter Asset Management), Mr Richard Peirson (director of institutional clients, Framlington) with other members of staff: Dr Adotey Bing (director, The Africa Centre), Mr Clive M Gilchrist (managing director, Bestrustees), Mr Richard Mansell-Jones (Brown, Shipley and Co).

Mr Andrew Winckler (chairman, UK Financial Services Regulatory Group, Ernst & Young), Mr John P Southwell (Credit Lyonnais Securities), Mr Tom Attwood (managing director, Intermediate Capital Group), Mr Paul Field (P A Field), Mr Michael F Heathcoat Amory (joint deputy chief executive, Jupiter International Group).

Mr Stuart A Goldsmith (chairman, Ketton Investments), Mr C John Govett (chairman, Schroder Split Fund), Mr David H Hunter (NCL Investments), Mr O Dawson (Foreign and Colonial), Mr James Barston (managing director, Mars Asset Management), Mr Nick Bensted-Smith (director, Chiswell Associates), Mr Martin Trowell (group compliance officer, Invesco), Mr Julian Cazalet (Cazenove & Co) with Mr J W Findlay.

Mr Mark Phythian-Adams (director of investment trusts, Henderson Investors) with Mr Christopher Clarke (chief investment officer) and Ms Kate Murphy; Mr H H Hughes (Church Commissioners), Mr Jerry Hayes (*Punch* Magazine), Mr and Mrs Brian Lewis (North Essex Conservative Association), Mr Peter Lumsden (Special Trustees).

Mr Neil Oliver and Mrs Denise Everitt (University of Kent at Canterbury), Mrs E Rex (representing the Chairman of Essex County Council), Mr P A Revell-Smith (Ambient Media Corporation), Mr David Thorpe (Friends Ivory and Sime), Mr Noel Hinton and Mr Peter Lee (Takeover Panel) and many other friends and former colleagues.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.R. Angier and Miss F.M. Parker-Jervis
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Angier, of Ewelme, Oxfordshire, and Fiona, elder daughter of the late Mr John Parker-Jervis and of Mrs John Parker-Jervis, of Longworth, Oxfordshire.

Mr F.A. Felton and Mrs B.J. Bartlett
The engagement is announced between Mr Frank Felton, of Hainault, Essex, and Mrs Eleanor Bartlett (née Wilkinson), of Rangeworthy, Bristol.

Mr P.O. Geach and Miss C.E. Chapman
The engagement is announced between Peter Orlando, son of John R. Geach, of Bishops Castle, Shropshire, and Susan L. Dix, of Cambridge, formerly Mr and Mrs John Geach, and Christina, daughter of Sir David Chapman, Bt, DL, and Lady Chapman, of Cleadon, Tyne and Wear.

Mr A. Oxley and Miss C.H. Blakely
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Colin Oxley, of York, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Blakely, of Bermuda.

Mr R.E.M. Harvey and Miss J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Harvey, of Ewshot, Farnham, Surrey, and Jacqueline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Smith, of Oliver's Battery, Winchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.J.Q. Lewis and Miss A.M. Myles-White
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs B.A. Lewis, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Antonia, second daughter of Mr and Mrs M.J. Myles-White, of Matlock, Derbyshire.

Mr N.C. Randall and Miss S.A. Moutrie
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Randall, of Worthing, Sussex, and Simone, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Moutrie, of Brookmans Park, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.J.C. Simmonds and Miss R.H. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Simmonds, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire, and Rosalind (Rosie), daughter of Mr and Mrs Nevil Wilson, of Micheldever, Hampshire.

Dinners

1912 Club
Lord Lamont of Lerwick was the guest of honour at a dinner of the 1912 Club held yesterday at the House of Commons by invitation of Mr David Amess, MP, chairman of the club. Baroness Miller of Hendon, president, also spoke.

Constructors' Company
Professor David King, Master of Downing College, Cambridge, was the principal guest and speaker at the annual dinner of the Constructors' Company held last night at Painters' Hall.

Mr Peter Heath, Master, presided and presented the 1998 David Tong Cup Award to Bhupinder Singh Chawla as best all round achiever from the School of Architectural Engineering at the University of Westminster, and the 1998 Shafting and Shoring Trophy to Warrant Officer N.P Clark, 101 Regiment RE (V). Mr J.M Burrell, Middle Warden, also spoke.

The Masters of the Plaisterers', Paviors', Engineers', Arbitrators', Lightmongers' and Water Conservators' Companies and the President of the Chartered Institute of Building were among those present.

Railway Study Association
Mr John Welsby, Chairman of British Railways Board, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Railway Study Association held last night at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr Alan Williams, president, and Mr Chris Heaps, chairman, also spoke.

The Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations
The Centre for Jewish-Christian Relations (CJCR) in Cambridge held a dinner at The Athenaeum, London, yesterday. Mr Clemens Nathan, Chair of the Centre's Board of Trustees, and Mrs Nathan were the hosts. The occasion was to welcome the Centre's first Visiting Fellow, Professor Hamutal Bar Yosef from Ben Gurion University in Israel. Among others present were:

Mr Edward Kessler (Director, CJCR), Mrs Deborah Patterson Jones (CJCR), Mrs Katherine Hallgarten, Mr and Mrs Edward Mocatta, the Hon Mr Gerard Noel, Professor Naomi Segal, Mrs Eileen Shaw and Mr George Wilkes (CJCR).

Confederation of Passenger Transport UK
Lord Whitty, Minister for Roads and Road Safety, was the Guest of Honour at the Annual Dinner of the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, held yesterday at Grosvenor House, London. The President of the Confederation, Mr Frank Harris, Chairman of the Harris Group, presided.

Service dinner

Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785
The Secretary of State for Defence and the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff were the principal guests at a dinner of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785 held yesterday at Trinity House to entertain the Admiralty Board and to mark Founders' Day (February 4, 1765). Vice-Admiral Sir Christopher Morgan presided.

Blundell's School

The Hon Francis Maude, MP, Shadow Chancellor, will open the new Library and Resources Centre at Blundell's School on Thursday, March 4.

Colin Beale

A thanksgiving service for the life of Colin Beale, Bursar of Blundell's School 1953-73, (OB 1925-1930) will be held at 11.30am on Saturday, March 13, in Chapel.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Robert Peel, Prime Minister 1834-35 and 1841-46, Bury, Lancashire, 1788; John Boyd Dunlop, pioneer of the pneumatic tyre, Dreghorn, Strathclyde, 1840.
DEATHS: Thomas Carlyle, writer and historian, London, 1881; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, Australian folk poet and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, 1941; Emeric Pressburger, film producer, Suffolk, 1988.



OBITUARIES

RENFORD BAMBROUGH

Renford Bambrough, Cambridge philosopher, died on January 17 aged 72. He was born on April 29, 1926.



A FELLOW of St John's College, Cambridge, for nearly 50 years, Renford Bambrough began as a classicist in ancient philosophy and became a philosopher in the tradition of Russell, Moore and Wittgenstein.

John Renford Bambrough was born into a mining background in Silksworth, County Durham, where his father was an electrician in the local colliery. After grammar school he was conscripted as a Bevin Boy to work at Wearmouth Colliery in 1944. He went from there to St John's as an undergraduate, subsequently succeeding in the fierce postwar competition for places and fellowships to study further study and follow an academic career. He became a college fellow in 1950.

He began with Plato, Aristotle and the pre-Socratics, with a powerful essay on Plato's Republic, *Plato's Political Analogies*, which was reprinted in *Plato, Popper and Politics* (1967). But his assiduous attendance at the Cambridge Moral Sciences Club had brought him into contact with Ludwig Wittgenstein and with philosophers from the United States and other parts of the English-speaking world who were drawn to Wittgenstein. Although Bambrough was a university lecturer in classics from 1957, his focus of attention had already switched to consideration of philosophical questions, often illustrated by references to Aristotle and more occasionally to Plato, before he became a university lecturer in moral sciences in 1966.

Bambrough came to believe that Wittgenstein's later work, for all its dismissal of philosophical theories such as those in his own *Tractatus*, provided the material for demonstrating that philosophical knowledge was indeed knowledge: capable of reaching truth, with justification and reason. Little published material about the later Wittgenstein existed in the 1950s, but the feeling of a powerful oral tradition was heady matter for those who attended Bambrough's lectures and John Wisdom's tea-parties at Causewayside.

Bambrough was an inspirational rationalist. He believed that there was objectivity in philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, and politics, as there was in science and mathematics, and he approvingly quoted Aristotle's view that accuracy was important for the carpenter and the geometrician, but was to be construed differently in the two cases.

Bambrough's influential paper *Universals and Family Resemblances* (1961) developed such notions, beginning from a celebrated passage in Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations*. There followed a series of important articles, including *Principia Metaphysica* (1964), *Unanswerable Questions* (1966) and *Aristotle on Justice: A Paradigm of Philosophy* (1965), and books, too: *Reason, Truth and God* (1969), based on his Stanton lectures, and *Moral Scepticism and Moral Knowledge* (1979). Bambrough's philosophical work was rooted in commonsense and common understanding. That, and his unfailing intellectual rigour, made him a distinguished editor of *Philosophy* from 1973 to 1994.

A wonderful teacher, he inspired generations of students, many of whom aspired to his calm rationality in worlds remote from professional philosophy. His mien was often impassive: his lack of mannerism sometimes seemed itself a mannerism. When he chose to be, he was wickedly witty, the centre of humour and reputedly lucky at poker.

He was an important figure at St John's, as Dean (1964-79) and then President (1979-83). He also served on numerous university bodies and as chairman of the governors of Sedbergh School. But he was, perhaps, too extraordinary and controversial a figure to reach the administrative pinnacles.

His last years were marred by a degenerative neurological condition, Lewy Body disease, which, like Alzheimer's disease, deprived him of thought, reason and speech. His wife and four children, to whom he was devoted, cared for him compassionately, and so, at the end, did his nurses.

THE RIGHT REV PATRICK CASEY

The Right Rev Patrick Casey, Bishop of Brentwood, 1969-79, died on January 26 aged 85. He was born on November 20, 1913.



PATRICK CASEY was one of the first Roman Catholic bishops in England to be appointed on the recommendation of his clergy and parishioners. In the summer of 1969 a survey was circulated in the Brentwood diocese asking priests and laity who they would like to see take up the reins on the departure of Bishop Ward. While the clergy favoured a figure who would work closely with them, others in the diocese replied that they wanted a "relatively progressive" character. Unsurprisingly, Casey's name featured prominently among the candidates.

The method of Casey's appointment was in many respects in tune with the philosophy of the Second Vatican Council, four years before. It satisfied the wishes of those within and without the hierarchy who believed that the time had come for bishops who would work in a more consultative and sympathetic manner.

Casey was not a specialist theologian but an enthusiastic and accessible figure who had made a name for himself for his unobtrusive work among the poor and in nursing homes and clinics while Provost of Westminster Cathedral Chapter in the previous three years. Wryly remarking that the diocese of Brentwood would never be happy with anything less than a saint, Casey said he would stay for only ten years. Bound to his word, he duly stepped down in December 1979.

Patrick Casey was born in North London of Irish stock, and was ordained into the priesthood by Cardinal Hinsley in June 1939, whereupon he became assistant priest at St James's, Spanish Place, for more then 20 years. After two-and-a-half years as parish priest of Hendon, he was appointed Vicar General of the Westminster archdiocese in December 1963. The following year he was made a domestic prelate and a canon of Westminster Cathedral. He was consecrated bishop of a titular see by Cardinal Heenan in 1966 and became one of the auxiliary bishops at Westminster.

During his tenure of the diocese of Brentwood (which covers the bulk of Essex) Casey ensured an adherence to the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, establishing commissions on liturgy and justice and peace.

However, he had first to deal with the thorny problem of whether or not to enlarge the existing cathedral, the church of St Anthony of Padua, at a cost of £125,000. A minority opposed the idea, pointing out that this sum might be more appropriately spent on overseas aid and charity. Casey insisted, however, maintaining that the old structure was insufficient for its needs, and the extension was eventually built — an extension which has since been augmented by a more impressive, classical structure.

When Cardinal Heenan died in 1975, Casey as Bishop of Brentwood acted as the principal celebrant at the funeral. For many years he was Episcopal Secretary of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

Upon his resignation in 1979, Casey became apostolic administrator, before the eventual appointment of Bishop Thomas McMahon. In 1980 he once again took up the role of parish priest, this time at the fashionable church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More in Chelsea. He retired to Leigh-on-Sea in September 1989, where he lived next door to his local church, playing an active role in parish life, though in recent years he had been afflicted by psoriasis and arthritis, which made it painful for him to kneel or genuflect.

As a bishop, Casey was comfortable popular with his clergy and congregations: he would often celebrate Mass in a church where the local priest was ill or absent. Despite his ostensibly liberal stance, he was opposed to any suggestion of women priests. After the Church of England voted to allow the ordination of women in 1992, Casey became a champion of the so-called "Roman Option", intended to bring Anglican clergy into the Catholic priesthood. One of the beneficiaries of the idea was Bishop Graham Leonard, the former Anglican Bishop of London. Asked on his 80th birthday whether women would ever be ordained in the Catholic Church, Casey remarked: "I do not think it will happen in my lifetime, thank God."

ALEXANDER COOKE

Alexander Cooke, physician, died on January 6 aged 99. He was born on October 17, 1899.

ALEC COOKE liked to recall that as a medical student he was instructed in the application of leeches. Yet he was sympathetic to modern ideas, and in his nineties he attended lectures on molecular medicine.

He came from a long-lived family. His father could remember the funeral of the Duke of Wellington, and one of his sisters just beat him by living to be 100. At Merton College, Oxford, he was an avuncular and clubbable character. But his modesty disguised a sharp intellect, and he was influential in instigating changes in an essentially conservative profession, notably at the Royal College of Physicians.

Alexander Macdougall Cooke was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, Oxford University and St Thomas' Hospital. Before taking up an exhibition at Jesus College he served in the Royal Fusiliers and Royal Flying Corps during the last two years of the First World War. In 1920 he secured a first in animal physiology and was at once employed as a demonstrator in the Department of Physiology.

At St Thomas' he was awarded the Mead Medal and the Toller Prize in clinical medicine and pathology, while at the same time tutoring in physiology at Jesus. He qualified in 1923 and then held a succession of appointments at St Thomas', finally becoming deputy director of the medical unit. In 1933 he left London and was appointed May Reader in Medicine at Oxford, so beginning a long association with the Radcliffe Infirmary, where he became a physician in 1938.

The onset of the Second World War placed a great strain on hospital resources in Oxford, where medical students were evacuated from London to complete their clinical training. As clinical subdean, Cooke set about organising the teaching with quiet efficiency, and his success encouraged the formation of an undergraduate clinical school in Oxford, to be grafted onto the postgraduate school endowed by Lord Nuffield.

In 1942 Cooke was elected to a fellowship at Merton, an honour he valued above all others. The dinner parties he and his wife Vera gave in their house on the Woodstock Road, where members of the medical profession met dons, helped to ease the absorption of the clinical school into the life of the university.

After the war Cooke became increasingly involved in the affairs of the Royal College of Physicians. He had been elected to the fellowship in 1935 and was for many years an examiner for its membership. He also gave the Lumleian and Langdon-Brown lectures. During his time as censor and senior censor, in the 1950s, he brought his considerable influence to bear in encouraging the college to move from the ornate but inappropriate building in Trafalgar Square to Denys Lasdun's splendid new building in Regent's Park. This move, more than anything else, enabled the college to change from an inward-looking body to an institution with a wide-ranging concern for continuing postgraduate medical education.

Perhaps his most important contribution to education was the training of a series of house physicians and registrars who subsequently became distinguished in their own right. His interest in training was also manifest during the ten years he served as Oxford University's representative on the General Medical Council.

Standing at over 6ft, he was always well-dressed and set high standards for himself in personal and professional behaviour, which he expected others to follow. He was well known in the hospital for remonstrating with anyone, be it porter or professor, who was walking along the corridor whistling or with hands in his pockets.

Yet he was completely unpompous, and his sternness was relieved by a self-deprecating humour and a refreshing lack of ambition for personal gain.

He was for 13 years secretary to the editors of the *Quarterly Journal of Medicine* and then an editor himself for a further 14 years. He also contributed many papers to medical journals. In 1966 he retired from the National Health Service, and in 1972 he published the third volume of the *History of the Royal College of Physicians*, a meticulous work of scholarship. At the age of 92 he wrote a delightful autobiography, *The Cooke's Tale*. A man of wide culture, he sang in the Bach Choir, had a great interest in architecture and was a connoisseur of bookplates.

He married Vera Lea in 1928 and enjoyed a supremely happy family life. His wife died in 1984, but being fiercely independent he insisted on living alone in his house, continued to travel widely and remained a familiar and much loved figure on high table at Merton. He was predeceased by one of his daughters, but is survived by his son and two daughters.

JOAN COOPER

Joan Cooper, CB, social work reformer, died on January 15 aged 84. She was born on August 12, 1914.

SINCE the end of the Second World War social work has never been free from controversy. This was Joan Cooper's battlefield. She relished challenge and change. As chief inspector of the children's department at the Home Office in the 1960s, as chairman of Parents for Children in the 1980s and as longtime vice-president of the National Children's Bureau, she was at the heart of most major developments in the field.

She was born in the Moravian settlement in Fairfield, Manchester. She took a degree and a teacher's diploma at Manchester University, and began to take an interest in social work in the slums of Ancoats, and by doing part-time probation work.

Finding a job in teaching was not easy. She had to go as far as Bude in Cornwall. But, despite her small stature, she had no difficulty in keeping order.

In 1941, she became an administrative assistant in the Derbyshire Education Department and then an assistant director of education. In these posts she was involved with evacuees (about whom she later advised television's *Dad's Army*), with primary education and in the setting up of child guidance clinics.

After the 1948 Children's Act, which was aimed at dealing with children deprived of a normal home life, children's departments were set up in local authorities, and Joan Cooper was appointed to East Sussex. Together with her colleagues she established a professionally manned children's service. She gained the full support of the elected council, though one member was initially rather in favour of sending the children to learn farming in Australia and New Zealand. Large homes which housed many children were replaced with smaller ones, and other children lived in foster homes. She was proud that by the time she left a number of "her" children were at university.

While in East Sussex she went on an overseas study tour, played a major role in setting up the National Children's Bureau in 1955 and became president of the Association of Children's Officers in 1965. In that year she also became chief inspector of the Home Office's children's department. She worked on the 1969 Children's Act, which was concerned with delinquincy issues, strongly putting the view that labelling a child "delinquent" means predicting a delinquent future.

In 1971 she went to the Department of Heath and Social Security as a director of the new social work service. She retired in 1976, leaving behind a broader vision of personal social services work. On retirement she took a year's course at the National Institute of Social Work. She also wrote three books and many articles in professional journals.

She became an honorary research fellow of Sussex University in 1979 and was particularly pleased last October that the university took part in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Children's Act — an event which she had helped to organise nationally.

She travelled extensively both professionally and privately. She found North America stimulating and was in demand there, as in a number of countries.

She loved opera and art galleries, but her greatest love was walking, particularly on the Sussex downs. She did not marry.

ON THIS DAY

February 5, 1925

Despite the somewhat prim tone of the report, the atmosphere was said to be informal at all times. The occasional splitting up of the party was not surprising, for there were 140 cadets.

AUSTRALIAN CADETS

The party of Australian cadets who are visiting Europe on an educational tour were received by the Prince of Wales at St James's Palace yesterday afternoon. Headed by their band and colours, they marched to the Palace and formed into three sides of a square in the garden under command of the director of the tour, Mr. J. J. Simons. His Royal Highness walked across from York House, and his appearance in the Palace gardens was greeted by the Royal Salute and the playing of the National Anthem. The Prince remarked that he needed no introduction, because he remembered Mr. Simons quite well, having seen him not only in Australia but some years ago at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. Simons informed his Royal Highness that the Duke of Connaught, who had heard that the cadets were going to Nice while on the Continent, had expressed a wish to see them. The Prince replied that he was sure the Duke of Connaught would be as anxious as himself that they should have a happy and instructive time. As the lads marched past him in single file the Prince shook hands cordially with each one, and asked a number of questions. The band brought up the rear, and the Prince had quite a long talk with Geoffrey Bryne, the 12 year old drum-major, who is only 3ft 8in high, and is the smallest member of the party.

The Prince briefly addressed the party, saying: "I sincerely hope that you may have a happy time here and that you will enjoy your visit to the Old Country as much as I enjoyed my visit to Australia. That is saying a great deal for nothing could have been better."

Earlier in the day a party of the cadets visited the A.E.C. motor works at Walthamstow, while the remainder went to the Science Museum at South Kensington. After the ceremony at St James's Palace the boys were driven to Lambeth Palace where they received a very hearty welcome from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs Randall Davidson. The Archbishop told the cadets that his Palace was one of the very few really old houses left in London. He trusted that they would return home believing that the people of this country had great faith in the future of Australia. The visitors were entertained to tea at the Royal Colonial Institute by Lord Burnham. In the evening half the cadets visited the Savoy Theatre and witnessed a performance of *The Sport of Kings*; the remainder were the guests of the Overseas League . . .

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY





PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 7(7) OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT 1984

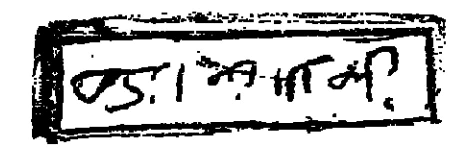
The Secretary of State hereby gives notice as follows.

1. He intends to revoke, later in the year, the Class Licence to run Telecommunications Systems for the Provision of Satellite Telecommunication Services (issued 2 August 1991), the Class Licence for the Running of Telecommunication Systems by Broadcasters to Receive Messages from Earth Orbiting Apparatus (issued 15 January 1991), the Class Licence to Run Sound Broadcasting Systems (issued 31 December 1990), the Class Licence to Run Radio Transmission Systems for the Purposes of Controlling and Monitoring Television and Cable Relay Systems (issued 12 December 1991) and the Class Licence to Run Community Television Relay Systems (issued 31 December 1990) which were granted by the Secretary of State under section 7 of the Telecommunications Act and to issue new licences. The licences will be for a period of 25 years subject to earlier revocation in circumstances specified in the licences.

2. Various amendments have been made to the licences to bring the conditions and definitions into line with the requirements of the EC Licensing Directive (97/13EC), and for other reasons. The draft licences have been examined to ensure the conditions are consistent with those set out in the Annex to the EC Licensing Directive and that each condition satisfies the EC Licensing Directive's requirements to be transparent, non-discriminatory, proportionate and objective. New conditions have been included in the licences on Fair Trading and Access Control services. Various other minor or consequential amendments will be made to the licences to update and standardise the conditions and definitions.

3. Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed new licences. They should be made in writing by 5 March 1999 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications & Information Industries Directorate, Room 2.79, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SS. Copies of the proposed licences can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Department or by calling 0171 215 1746.

Simon Moseley, Department of Trade and Industry — 5 February 1999



THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1999

NEWS

Ailing Hussein flies home

■ A critically ill King Hussein was last night flying back to his vulnerable desert kingdom in an apparent bid to die on home soil after the drastic failure of a second bone marrow transplant to secure remission in his lethal lymphatic cancer.

"The great fear of everyone here is that the King is rushing home to die among his people and not on foreign turf," a former Jordanian diplomat said............................ Pages 1, 15

Base rate cut deals blow to savers

■ Savers were dealt a blow yesterday by the fifth successive monthly cut in the Bank of England base rate from 6.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent. The Bank's unexpected decision to trim base rates was greeted with widespread acclaim by business and union leaders. Mortgage lending rates were cut to their lowest levels for 30 years.. Page 1

Diana patent bid fails

An attempt by the family and memorial fund of Diana, Princess of Wales, to turn her face into a trademark, has been rejected by the Patent Office................ Page 1

RAC deal called off

Some 12,000 members of the Royal Automobile Club who had been banking on a £34,000 windfall from selling RAC Motoring Services to Cedant had their payouts cancelled when the deal was called off............................ Page 1

Lords, 75, face axe

Life peers over 75, such as Baroness Thatcher and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, face expulsion from a reformed House of Lords under plans for a mandatory retirement age.. Page 2

Island wives wanted

Remote Hebridean island communities, known locally as bachelor country, are to receive European funding to attract potential wives to the area.............. Page 5

Dilemma for rider

A talented disabled rider is considering having her arm amputated to comply with a rule change banning her from top-level dressage competitions..................... Page 6

Channel 4 faces fine

Channel 4 is facing a substantial fine after admitting that a documentary about young male prostitutes contained scenes that were faked................................ Page 8

Percy's garden plan

The Duchess of Northumberland is seeking £15 million in sponsorship to help create one of the most spectacular gardens on the planet at Alnwick Castle............ *Page 11*

Tories' marriage vow

William Hague has promised to use the tax and benefit system to support the institution of marriage.................................. Page 12

Fresh IOC scandal

Kim Un Yong, the Korean Olympic official tipped as the next president of the IOC, came under fresh pressure to step down when it was revealed that Salt Lake City had got his son a job....... Page 14

Nato prepares forces

Nato is planning to send five brigades into Kosovo, with a 5,000-man strategic reserve force in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, if a peace deal is signed in Rambouillet...... Page 17

Mercenaries revolt

French mercenaries are in revolt over their lack of work and what they say is the failure of their leaders to pay them for the few missions that have come their way in recent years........................ Page 18

Bank in Nazi scandal

Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest commercial bank, was thrust into the midst of a new Nazi era scandal, casting a shadow over its planned $10-billion takeover of Bankers Trust................ Page 19

Home boasts durable foundations

The buyer of 29 Bailgate in Lincoln will get a slice of Roman history as well as a three-storey family home. The house boasts four giant pillars, part of the remains of a first-century Roman civic centre, as well as a section of road believed to have been built between York and London by the Romans after they arrived in the area about 42BC.. Page 13

WIN MCNAMEE / REUTERS



Bill and Hillary Clinton, pictured at a prayer breakfast in Washington, have attacked a *People* cover story about their daughter, Chelsea. Page 16

BUSINESS

Rover sham: Longbridge, Rover's car plant, has already been abandoned by its parent BMW, according to senior Rover insiders who have branded the high-profile £2 billion package a sham...... **Page 27**

Stakis talks: Ladbroke, the hotel and gaming group, is in talks to acquire Stakis, its Glasgow-based rival, in a £1.5 billion deal.... **Page 27**

Goldman payout: The partners of Goldman Sachs may exclude most employees from a share windfall when it again attempts to float on the US stock market.......... **Page 27**

Markets: The FTSE 100 index fell 0.40 points to 5939.9. The pound fell 0.02 cents to $1.6380 but rose 0.33p against the euro to 68.93p. The sterling index rose to 100.6 from 100.3........................... **Page 30**

SPORT

Football: A sub-committee will be formed next week to discuss the contenders for the job of England manager, and David Davies, the acting chief executive, will have a large say in the appointment...... **Page 52**

***Boxing:** Howard Clarke, a journeyman boxer from the West Midlands, aims for a world title at Madison Square Garden in New York on the same bill as Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield*...... **Page 52**

Rugby union: Scotland have made six changes to the team that lost to South Africa for their opening Five Nations Championship match against Wales..................... **Page 49**

Cricket: India scored 247 for eight in a hostile atmosphere on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan in Madras................... **Page 45**

Rare Bard: A London theatre is staging a little-read Shakespeare poem in an unfamiliar verse form — and the result is 80 minutes of thrilling drama................. **Page 34**

Richard Morrison: "This time the curse of the lottery has blighted not some over-ambitious theatre, but the humblest and oldest servants of British mass culture"......... **Page 35**

Pop 1: "John Lennon is cool because he was exactly the kind of person who would have loathed Chris Evans" — Caitlin Moran on a television commercial too ghastly to watch................................ **Page 36**

Pop 2: How three teenage sisters from Manchester adopted the name Cleopatra and set about ruling the world. Plus the week's new pop albums reviewed......... **Page 37**

Jane Shilling: "Pregnancy is a thrilling experience, during which you have a fair chance of looking as sexy as you ever have"...... **Page 20**

Grace Bradberry: "Far from providing escapism, *Shakespeare in Love* is thrusting a rapier into settled relationships"......................... **Page 21**

MEDIA

Breakthrough: Jeff Randall, the editor of *Sunday Business*, is relishing his paper's breaking the 60,000 sales barrier..................... **Page 38**

Trashed: Peter Stuart, TV's original king of trash who is about to launch another risqué Channel 4 series, believes that Channel 5's output is going too far............ **Page 41**

EDUCATION

Help: Guidelines are needed to ensure that school governors understand their position.......... **Page 43**

THE PAPERS

The shameful evidence of corruption by IOC members, the inability of the IOC to agree to an anti-drugs regime that will be effective, and the failure to reform the bid process, confirm that the IOC has lost its effectiveness. Members talk about the need to get rid of a few "rotten apples". But the rot is systematic. As the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch must carry the ultimate responsibility for the crisis. He is not an answer to the problem. He represents the problem.

The Sydney Morning Herald

RADIO & TV

Preview: Home improvement buffs parade their cock-ups. *Britain's Worst DIYers* (ITV, 9pm) **Review:** Paul Hoggart on a flu virus that could return................ **Pages 50, 51**

OPINION

The blame game

Ministers in Northern Ireland cannot wait upon events. The Government should emphasise that the only real obstacle to progress is paramilitary obduracy. A moratorium on prisoner releases would be a suitable sign of ministerial resolution. No executive can be called until decomissioning begins.......... **Page 23**

Conviction politics

It may be, should be, upsetting for Republicans to see the words of George Washington upstaged by the opinion polls of George Gallup. They must nonetheless prepare an exit strategy...................... **Page 23**

Women's rock

If an EU grant can encourage not only women but whole families to the underpopulated Outer Hebrides, it will fulfill its most valuable purpose, a diverse economy where a community now dies...... **Page 23**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

Barely a week goes by without these ritual slayings. Harriet Harman, Ron Davies, Derek Draper, Peter Mandelson, Glenn Hoddle . . . anyone will do............ **Page 22**

MARY ANN SIEGHART

Eating a T-bone steak is a voluntary pursuit. As long as shops attach a label informing that there is a miniscule risk of infection, that should be the limit of government intervention...................... **Page 22**

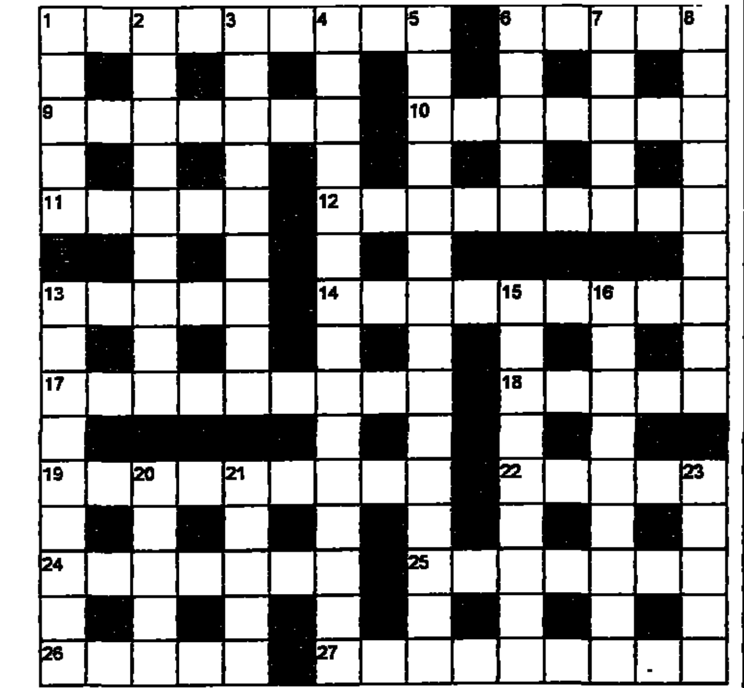
PHILIP HOWARD

Ever vaster daily avalanches of paper bury us at home. I do not want the Royal Bank of Scotland to invent new accounts that will win me *discounts in restaurants* and for accident insurance................ **Page 22**

Renford Bambrough, Cambridge philosopher; **Alexander Cooke**, physician; **The Right Rev Patrick Casey**, Bishop of Brentwood; **Joan Cooper**, social reformer.... **Page 25**

Police no-go areas in Northern Ireland; God's judgment; minimum wage; Stirling Moss on elderly drivers; institutional racism; Alfred Brendel defends Goethe.... **Page 23**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,019



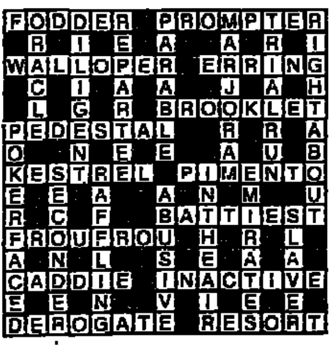
ACROSS

1 Even though rejected with reprimand, unlikely to flare up (9).
6 Allow out of bed to relax (3,2).
9 Brave young lady left a testament (7).
10 Rows for sport (7).
11 Your old baffling disease is simple (5).
12 Erect pine crashes where disaster's most severe (9).
13 Sacred text worked into tiny fabric pattern (5).
14 Takes back fruit, first of several goods to be moved out (9).
17 Cane, say, for bribe (9).
18 Permitted to speak in normal voice (5).
19 Old writer that's made a knight never mixes with cast (9).
22 Soldier wearing protective gear for possibly dangerous spells (5).
24 State employing veto, inter alia (7).
25 European project has recent rival (7).
26 Pet fed with chips? (5).
27 Old soldier given encouragement to include name on equipment (9).

DOWN

1 Scrap plane journey, having no money (5).
2 Athletic event broadcast to people (5,4).
3 Cutting entertainment short, firmly fix seating order (9).
4 Points out cause of one's being misled like this? (2,3,5,5).
5 Full of ideas over residential development in cradle of civilisation (7,8).
6 Philosopher making secure point (5).
7 Time needed to overcome breach in church council here (5).
8 Law groups made haste without pressure, and missed only one point of law? (9).
13 Knowing excellent joke (9).
15 One needs energy to maul furiously hard in crucial area of field (9).
16 Material son's written in drink leading to downfall (9).
20 Check root that's come up (5).
21 Anger with refusal, in any case (5).
23 Set free, but bound over? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,018



Times Two Crossword, page 52

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.33 am	4.56 pm
Moon sets:	Moon rises:
9.45 am	10.30 pm

Last quarter: February 8

London 4.56 pm to 7.31 am
Bristol 5.06 pm to 7.41 am
Edinburgh 4.54 pm to 7.59 am
Manchester 4.59 pm to 7.46 am
Penzance 5.22 pm to 7.49 am

FORECAST

☐ **General:** colder. Scotland will be bitterly cold with showers and a strong wind leading to blizzards in highlands and some sleet or snow at lower levels

☐ **London, SE & Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Islands:** mainly dry and bright. Small risk of a shower. Wind fresh, NW. Max 8C (46F)

☐ **E Anglia, Central N, E & NE England:** sunny spells with one or two showers. Wind NW, strong. Max 7C (45F)

☐ **W Midlands, S Wales, SW & NW England, Isle of Man:** heavy showers, sunny spells. Wind strong, NW. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Wales, Lake District:** heavy showers, few sunny spells. Wind strong, NW. Max 8C (46F)

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** sunny spells, showers on hills. Wind strong to gale, NW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland:** showers, blizzards on hills. Wind strong to gale, NW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow:** sharp showers turning wintry. Wind strong to gale, NW. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **N Ireland:** heavy showers, few sunny spells. Wind strong, NW. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sunny spells and scattered showers. Wind fresh or strong, NW. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook for weekend:** becoming even colder, with showers and sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	5.6	0.01	8	46	s
Anglesey	2.6	0.01	12	54	r
Aspatria	1.6	0.02	10	50	sh
Aviemore	0.9	0.14	6	43	sh
Belfast	0.5	0.05	9	48	sh
Birmingham	2.2	-	13	56	b
Bognor R	-	-	11	52	c
Bournemth	-	-	12	54	c
Bristol	-	0.01	11	52	c
Buxton	1.3	0.01	10	50	c
Cardiff	-	0.01	11	52	c
Clacton	3.2	-	12	54	b
Colwyn Bay	4.3	-	14	57	s
Cromer	2.1	-	13	55	b
Eastbourne	2.8	-	10	50	b
Edinburgh	2.6	0.07	11	52	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.7	0.45	8	46	sh
Exmouth	0.5	-	13	55	c
Fishguard	2.5	0.01	11	52	s
Folkestone	3.5	-	13	55	b
Glasgow	0.5	0.25	8	46	sh
Guernsey	-	-	12	54	c
Hastings	0.4	-	11	52	b
Hayling I.	0.2	-	11	52	c
Herne Bay	X	-	14	57	b
Hove	0.1	-	10	50	c
Hunstanton	2.8	-	12	54	b
Isle of Man	3.9	0.03	11	52	r
Isle of Wight	X	-	11	52	c
Jersey	-	0.01	11	52	du
Kinloss	1.1	0.08	7	45	sl
Leeds	6.3	0.01	13	55	sh
Lerwick	1.0	0.09	4	39	sn
Leuchars	5.6	0.01	9	48	b
London	1.3	-	13	55	c
Lowestoft	2.8	-	13	56	b
Manchester	1.4	0.01	13	55	c
Margate	3.9	-	14	57	b
Morecambe	2.2	0.02	10	50	b
Newcastle	6.7	0.01	13	55	sh
Norwich	3.8	-	13	55	b
Oxford	2.9	-	12	54	b
Penzance	-	0.01	12	54	d
Poole	0.1	-	13	55	c
Prestatyn	0.9	0.01	12	54	sh
Ross on Wye	2.8	-	14	57	s
Saunton Sands	-	-	10	50	c
Scarborough	5.5	-	13	55	g
Shrewsbury	1.5	0.01	12	54	f
Southend	3.4	-	11	52	b
Southport	X	0.01	10	50	sh
Stornoway	1.1	0.29	6	43	h
Swanage	0.1	-	11	52	c
Teignmouth	1.3	-	13	55	c
Tenby	1.4	-	12	54	c
Tiree	0.2	0.04	8	46	sh
Torquay	1.0	-	13	55	c

Yesterday's hottest: Hawarden, Flintshire 15C (59F); **Lowest day max** Lerwick 04C (39F); **Wettest** Altnaharra and Loch Glascarnoch, Highland 0.65in; **Sunniest** Newcastle 6.7hrs

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	13	55	s	Cologne	6	43	f	Madrid	8	46	s	Rome	11	52	s
Akrotiri	18	64	s	C'phagn	7	45	s	Majorca	12	54	f	Salzburg	0	32	sn
Alex'dria	17	63	c	Corfu	11	52	s	Malaga	14	57	s	S Frisco	10	50	s
Algiers	6	43	r	Dublin	11	52	f	Malta	12	54	f	Santiago	28	82	s
Amst'dm	7	45	c	Dubrovnik	10	50	s	Melbourne	30	86	f	S Paulo	X		
Athens	11	52	s	Faro	15	59	s	Mexico C	20	68	s	Seoul	-5	23	s
Bahrain	22	72	s	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	26	79	s	Singapore	30	86	f
Bangkok	25	77	f	Frankfurt	4	39	r	Milan	7	45	s	Stockholm	5	41	s
Barbados	27	81	f	Funchal	17	63	c	Montreal	4	39	s	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Barcelona	10	50	s	Geneva	4	39	s	Moscow	-24	-11	s	Sydney	23	73	d
Beijing	3	37	s	Gibraltar	13	55	s	Munich	1	34	f	Tangier	X		
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	-6	21	sn	Nairobi	26	79	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	f
Belgrade	1	34	c	Hong K	18	64	s	Naples	10	50	f	Tenerife	19	66	s
Berlin	5	41	c	Innsbruck	0	32	f	N Delhi	17	63	s	Tokyo	5	41	c
Bermuda	20	68	r	Istanbul	4	39	s	N York	10	50	s	Toronto	5	41	s
Biarritz	7	45	c	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	13	55	s	Tunis	10	50	f
Bordeaux	5	46	f	Jo'burg	24	75	f	Oslo	1	34	c	Valencia	13	55	s
Brussels	7	45	c	L Palmas	19	66	s	Paris	7	45	s	Vanc'ver	4	39	r
Budapest	4	39	f	Le Touqet	8	46	f	Perth	25	77	s	Venice	10	50	s
B Aires	21	70	s	Lisbon	9	48	s	Prague	2	36	c	Vienna	4	39	f
Cairo	21	70	s	Locarno	7	45	s	Reykjavik	3	37	c	Warsaw	1	34	d
Cape Tn	23	73	s	L Angeles	17	63	s	Rhodes	14	57	s	Washton	13	55	s
Chicago	7	45	f	Luxembg	4	39	c	Rio de J	30	86	s	Wellngton	18	64	X
Ch'church	17	63	X	Luxor	4	39	c	Riyadh	27	81	s	Zurich	1	34	f

Temperatures at midday local time. X - not available.

NOON TODAY

Changes to the chart below from noon: High M moves slow and declines slightly; Low K moves slowly E and fills, Low L moves slowly N and deepens slightly

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	4:16	4.0	16:23	4.1
Avonmouth	10:06	12.7	22:24	12.2
Belfast	1:54	3.1	14:07	3.5
Cardiff	9:52	11.7	22:10	11.3
Devonport	8:27	5.2	20:46	4.9
Dover	1:41	6.6	13:59	6.2
Dublin	2:17	3.8	14:37	4.0
Falmouth	7:58	5.0	20:17	4.7
Greenock	3:33	3.3	15:24	3.7
Harwich	2:29	3.9	14:52	3.7
Holyhead	1:04	5.2	13:18	5.4
Hull (Albert D)	9:14	8.2	21:21	8.6
Ilfracombe	8:50	8.8	21:09	8.4
King's Lynn	9:20	6.1	21:18	6.4
Leith	5:34	5.2	17:54	5.2
Liverpool	1:55	8.9	14:10	9.0
London Bridge	4:40	7.1	17:04	7.1
Lowestoft	0:00	2.6	12:48	2.2
Margate	2:44	4.7	15:12	4.5
Milford Haven	9:07	6.6	21:26	6.3
Newquay	8:01	6.6	20:21	6.3
Oban	8:18	3.7	20:47	3.6
Penzance	7:28	5.3	19:47	5.0
Portland	9:46	1.9	22:06	1.6
Portsmouth	2:04	4.5	14:12	4.4
Shoreham	1:58	6.1	13:59	5.9
Southampton	1:42	4.4	13:51	4.2
Swansea	9:08	11.7	21:27	11.3
Tees	6:41	9.6	18:50	9.8
Walton-On-Naze	2:24	4.1	14:48	4.0

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

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THE TIMES

Cleopatra rules the world
Pop, Page 37

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1999 2

Insiders claim that Longbridge plant has already been abandoned by BMW

Rover rescue branded a sham

By Christine Buckley, Sigrid Aufterbeck and Arthur Leathley

LONGBRIDGE, the huge Rover car plant in Birmingham with 14,000 employees, has already been abandoned by its parent, BMW, according to senior Rover insiders who have branded the £2 billion rescue package a sham.

An announcement about the end of the Rover series and the closure of Longbridge had been tipped for the Geneva Motor show next month, but BMW chiefs have brought the issue to a head early with today's meeting of the company's supervisory board. The meeting could sack Bernd Pischetsrieder, BMW's chief executive and the only supporter of keeping the Rover operation intact.

Despite the deal to save Longbridge, struck in December, Rover has not started building the production line for the new Mini, nor has it placed orders with suppliers for the car, which is due to be produced by next year. Neither has Rover put in a formal request to the Department of Trade and Industry for state aid for the new Rover models, despite having indicated it needed such aid to bolster its rescue package. The salvation for Longbridge was struck after ter unions agreed to flexible working practices. They are now dismayed at the prospect of Longbridge collapsing.

The rescue package was agreed to increase the plant's productivity, which lags behind that of its European competitors. The problems facing Rover, which industry experts say produces cars that people do not want to buy, were underlined yesterday when figures revealed that its share of the British car market plummeted last month.

The troubled group saw new registrations crash 45 per cent from 20,588 to 11,218, reducing its share of the overall market to less than one in 20 sales. Rover is usually the third-biggest seller in the UK but it finished behind Peugeot, Renault and Volkswagen.

If Herr Pischetsrieder is sacked today, he is likely to be replaced by Wolfgang Reitzle, who is against preserving the full range of Rover production in the UK. He favours keeping only the Mini, MG and Land Rover ranges and isolating production to Rover's plants at Oxford and Solihull.

Rover insiders, who have been briefed at top-level meetings at BMW's Munich headquarters, say that Herr Pischetsrieder is alone in battling for Longbridge and the full Rover range. If he is made to carry the can for poor production and sales, then support for Longbridge will vanish even if another successor is chosen.

Ken Jackson, General Secretary of the AEEU, said: "Longbridge is central to the West Midlands economy. Its closure would be the biggest blow the area has suffered in years." But he said he had had no indication from the company that this would be the case.

Tony Woodley, chief negotiator at the T&G, said the unions would press Rover to abide by the Longbridge rescue package. He said: "The deal was ratified by the entire board; that includes Herr Reitzle." However, the deal is not thought to be legally binding.

Mr Woodley, who is also chairman of the Rover trade unions, said he was worried at the possible departure of Herr Pischetsrieder. "He was seriously committed to us over here. We were 100 per cent committed to Herr Pischetsrieder and we are very sad that he will not be given the time to ride the Rover project to a successful final end."

Rover confirmed that it had not started building the key production line at Longbridge, had not contacted suppliers and had not officially applied to the DTI for aid.

Commentary, page 29

Business **Today**



Family fortunes
Brother and sister with the future of BMW in their hands

Commentary 29, Feature 31

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5939.9	(-0.4)
Yield	2.71%	
FTSE All Share	2732.82	(+2.51)
Nikkei	14086.85	(-74.76)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9330.25	(-36.56)*
S&P Composite	1257.84	(-14.23)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	4¾%*	(4¾%)
Long bond	99[illegible]*	(102[illegible])
Yield	5.31%*	(5.26%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5[illegible]%	(5[illegible]%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	118.83	(119.43)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6395*	(1.6350)
London:		
$	1.6380	(1.6380)
€	1.4508	(1.4426)
SFr	2.3222	(2.3100)
Yen	183.81	(183.88)
£ Index	100.6	(100.3)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1306*	(1.1307)
SFr	1.4163*	(1.4185)
Yen	112.05*	(112.87)
$ index	104.3	(104.5)

Tokyo close Yen 113.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$10.95	($11.00)

GOLD

London close	$288.75	($287.05)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 28

Ladbroke set to buy Stakis in £1.5bn deal

By Dominic Walsh

LADBROKE, the hotel and gaming group, is in talks to acquire Stakis, its Glasgow-based rival, in a £1.5 billion deal. If a merger goes through, the enlarged Ladbroke is also tipped to make a £400 million move on Vaux.

Stakis admitted that it had received an approach "that may or may not lead to an offer for the company in the region of 140p". It declined to identify the suitor but industry sources confirmed that a recommended offer from Ladbroke of at least 150p could be announced as soon as next week.

It is understood that both sides are keen to do a deal, although observers believe the statement could spark a bidding war involving the likes of Whitbread and possibly Accor of France. One said: "Whitbread are unlikely to sit back and let Ladbroke have things all their own way."

News of the deal comes amid mounting City pressure for consolidation in the sector. Vaux, which owns Swallow Hotels, is known to have received approaches from Stakis and Whitbread last year, and both also looked at Thistle Hotels. If Stakis walks away from a Ladbroke deal, it could renew its own takeover ambitions.

Stakis was forced by the Takeover Panel to issue a statement after a sharp rise in its share price since *The Times* revealed two weeks ago that Ladbroke and Stakis had held exploratory talks. Its shares, languishing at 100p before the report, rose a further 26p yesterday to 137p. Ladbroke shares shed 4½p to 238½p.

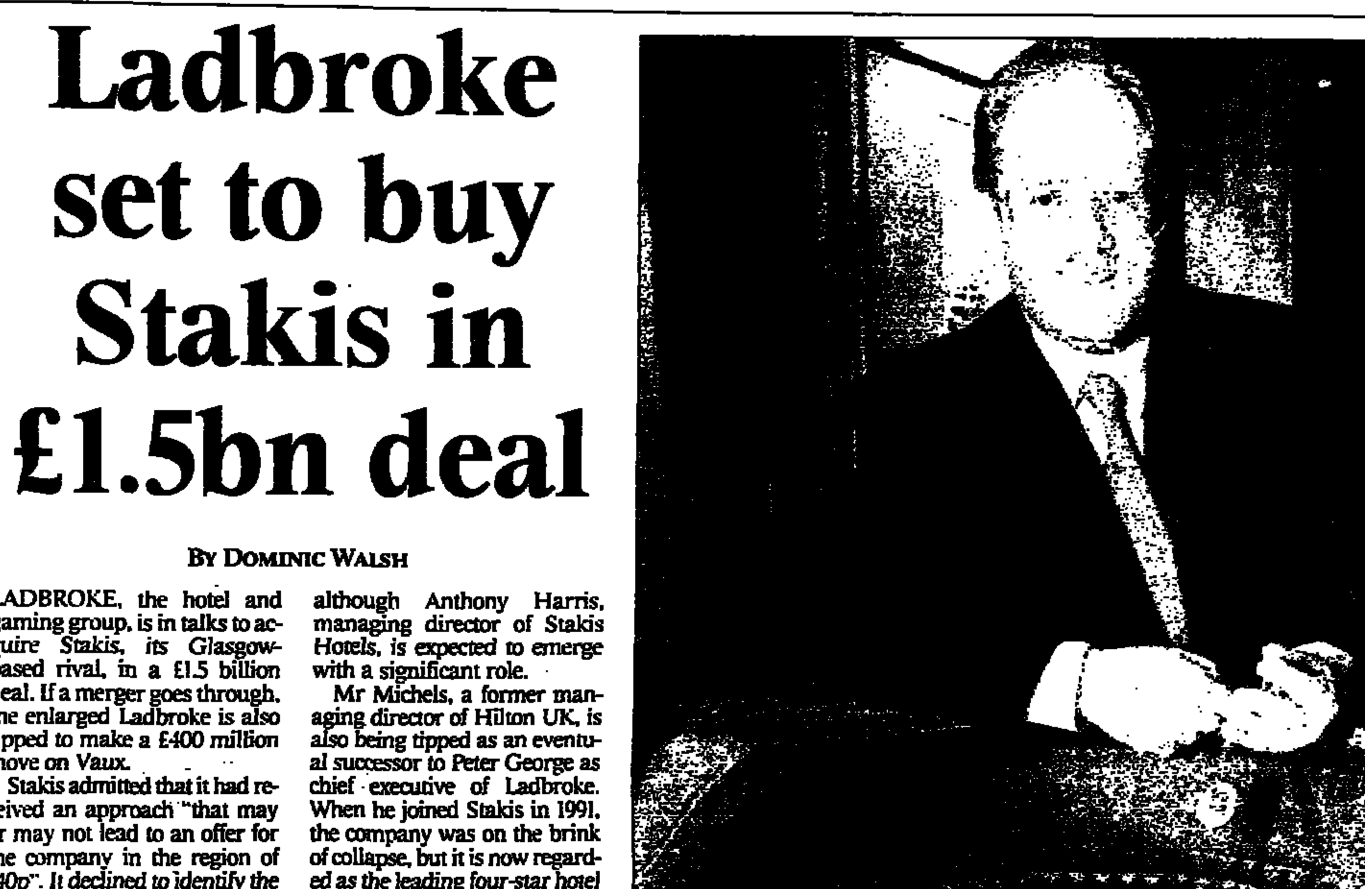
One of the main issues under discussion is likely to be the role of David Michels, the Stakis chief executive and regarded as one of the best managers in the hotel business. If a deal is agreed, it is inconceivable that Mr Michels would not take over from David Jarvis as head of Hilton International, putting a question mark over Mr Jarvis's future.

The recent appointment of Mike Smith, head of Ladbroke's betting and gaming division, to run Rank Group leaves a gap for Ian Payne, managing director of Stakis Casinos. Neil Chisman of Stakis is thought likely to lose out to the highly regarded Brian Wallace as finance director, although Anthony Harris, managing director of Stakis Hotels, is expected to emerge with a significant role.

Mr Michels, a former managing director of Hilton UK, is also being tipped as an eventual successor to Peter George as chief executive of Ladbroke. When he joined Stakis in 1991, the company was on the brink of collapse, but it is now regarded as the leading four-star hotel chain in Britain with 54 hotels, as well as 22 casinos and 69 LivingWell health clubs. Some 38 of Ladbroke's 170 Hilton hotels are in the UK, most of which have LivingWell clubs.

At 150p a share Stakis's market value including debt would stand at £1.5 billion. Mr Michels has shares and options worth almost £3 million, while Sir Reo Stakis, the group's founder and president, has £15 million worth.

Tempus, page 30



David Michels, who is regarded as one of the best managers in the British hotel business

Rate cut fails to curb jitters in rollercoaster ride for market

By Alasdair Murray, Economics Correspondent

THE stock market yesterday endured a rollercoaster day with even the Bank of England's unexpected move to reduce base rates to their lowest level in more than four years failing to curb the jitters of investors.

While the Bank's decision to reduce rates from 6 per cent to 5.5 per cent was greeted with glee by business and the unions, the market turned lower on fears that the Federal Reserve might consider raising rates in the US.

The anticipated reluctance of the European Central Bank to kick-start the European economy with its own rate cut also took a toll of the market.

The Bank said it had trimmed rates because "prospects for international activity and prices, domestic costs and consumer demand" implied that a further reduction was necessary to keep inflation on target. It was the fifth consecutive month in which the MPC has cut rates, reducing them from a peak last summer of 7.5 per cent.

The stock market jumped immediately after the decision was announced to hit a peak for the day some 101 points higher. However, the market failed to maintain its gains as Wall Street opened lower on US interest rate fears and the FTSE 100 eventually closed up just 0.4 points at 5,939.9.

The pound rebounded from early losses to close virtually unchanged against the dollar at $1.6380 and marginally higher against the euro at 68.93p.

The euro continued to be weighed down by the poor economic outlook in Europe despite the ECB's decision late in the day not to alter its key rate from 3 per cent.

Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, said there was still no indication of "significant upward or downward pressures on prices". He added that the ECB had no intention of intervening in the foreign exchange markets despite the recent decline in the value of the euro.

Rate cut, page 1
Commentary, page 29

LINKS
WEBSITE: (Bank of England)
http://www.bankofengland.co.uk

RAC poised for float as DTI blocks US sale

By Fraser Nelson

THE Royal Automobile Club is preparing for a stock market flotation after its £450 million sale to Cendant yesterday fell foul of the Department of Trade and Industry.

In a move designed to deliver the promise of share windfalls to its 12,000 members — worth around £33,000 under the aborted Cendant deal — the RAC will now either go public or find another buyer willing to table a "knock-out offer".

It is widely expected that Britain's second largest roadside breakdown service will receive approaches from venture capital buyers. It is understood that Cinven, which vied with Cendant in last summer's takeover talks, is seeking immediate negotiations.

Kim Howells, Competition Minister, ruled that Cendant would have too much control over the breakdown market if it merged the RAC with its own Green Flag subsidiary which it bought last year.

On DTI calculations, the AA has 48 per cent of the breakdown market, the RAC 29 per cent and Green Flag 12 per cent.

Ms Howell said: "No other supplier has more than 3.5 per cent. The market is highly concentrated, and the merger would make it more so."

Stephen P. Holmes, vice-chairman of Cendant, an American corporation that owns Britain's NCP car parks group but which has also been dogged by allegations of fraud in the US, said: "We are very disappointed. The British motorist has lost out here — the deal would have been far better for them."

The RAC had been preparing for the deal to be blocked and yesterday unveiled a new City-friendly board, chaired by Sir Michael Angus, chairman of Whitbread, to ready it for flotation.

The RAC Club in Pall Mall, London, with its golf course in Epsom, Surrey, still owned by the members, has now been separated from breakdown business.

Neil Johnson, RAC chief executive, said that members who were looking forward to windfalls *will not be disappointed*: "I don't think we'll have to look actively for buyers — they will come to us. I know there is a lot of interest out there, but they will have to join the queue."

Commentary, page 29





How to make the family budget go further
Special guide with *The Times* tomorrow

Deutsche's Auschwitz past hits Bankers

SHARES in Bankers Trust slipped further in Wall Street trading last night as speculation mounted that its takeover by Deutsche Bank is running into trouble after the German bank disclosed that it helped to finance construction of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

The World Jewish Congress is seeking meetings with Rolf Breuer, Deutsche Bank's chairman, to force the bank to settle Holocaust claims. Yesterday Deutsche Bank historians said that newly uncovered documents showed it had played a part in financing the construction of the Nazi camp in southern Poland.

In New York, Bankers Trust shares eased $8 cents a share to $85 (£52) against a year high of $136.05, as investors took an opinion on the $10.1 billion deal with Deutsche Bank unravelling. Deutsche's stock firmed €0.35 to €48.30 (£32).

Loan link, page 19

Goldman Sachs to block staff windfall

From Oliver August in New York

THE partners of Goldman Sachs may exclude the vast majority of their employees from a share windfall bonanza when the US investment bank attempts once more to float on the US stock market later this year.

According to the latest plans circulating at the Wall Street bank only partners and managing directors will share in a flotation payout of about $20 billion (£12 billion).

Under the blueprint for the original flotation that was pulled at short notice last year, all 11,000 employees were to have received shares.

After the collapse of the plan, Jon Corzine, the co-executive chairman and the strongest advocate of a flotation, lost his job.

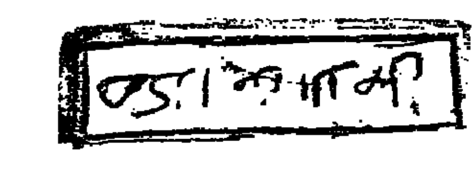
The flotation is now being managed by Hank Paulson, who succeeded Mr Corzine as chief executive, with the help of John Thornton, who is a top partner based in London as well as chairman of Laura Ashley, the troubled retailer.

Some Goldman Sachs insiders are insisting that all employees should receive stock, although that amount is likely to be smaller than the previously suggested figure of shares equivalent to between 50 per cent and 100 per cent of each employee's salary. It is understood that employees are being prepared for their exclusion from the flotation windfalls.

Mr Paulson and Mr Thornton, who initially opposed the flotation, have agreed that the deal will be revived this year but they are said to be changing the structure devised by Mr Corzine.

Under the new blueprints, control over the most secretive of Wall Street banks will be exerted firmly from the top. One of the objections to the flotation by Mr Thornton and other top partners had been that it could undermine Goldman's hands-on management style.

Foreshadowing changes to come, Goldman last month disbanded its six-member executive committee that made all big decisions. In its place, a bigger committee of all department heads will advise the top trio, made up of Mr Paulson, Mr Thornton and John Thain, the finance director.



Tyneside buyout bid rejected by Siemens

By Paul Armstrong

SIEMENS, the electronics company, has rejected a management buyout proposal for its crippled microchip plant on Tyneside.

The collapse in negotiations ends the 250 employees' best hopes of keeping the doors open beyond the June closing date set by Siemens.

It is understood that Siemens refused to accept the proposal from two of the plant's senior executives, who were believed to be offering about £400 million, despite having no better deal on the table.

A company spokesman refused to reveal why Siemens had rejected the proposal. Analysts, however, are speculating that Siemens is holding out for a higher price. Jim Wood-Smith, an analyst with Greig Middleton, said the price of chips, such as those produced at the Siemens plant, had risen sharply in the past fortnight.

Siemens spent £650 million on the Newcastle project, which employed 1,100 people when its closure was announced last July.

ICI has a mountain to climb as profits slump

By Christine Buckley
Industrial Correspondent

ICI, the former industrial bellwether and biggest company in the UK, yesterday offered no way out of its gloomy trading prospects and massive debt mountain. Sir Ronald Hampel, chairman, said this year would bring "continuing uncertainty and lower growth in many parts of the world, which will further impact our bulk chemicals businesses".

While the company, which is transforming itself from a commodity chemicals business to a speciality consumer group, said that its priority was to cut down its £4.2 billion debt, it would not say how. Analysts fear that its chances of selling businesses now are poor because the commodity chemicals market is in the doldrums. The company has hit two blocks in recent months over its disposal programme, when the Federal Trade Commission in the US halted the £1 billion sale of its tioxide operation and the £285 million sale of its Crosfield business.

Brendan O'Neill, who will become chief executive in the spring, said the change to new ICI was on course. He said: "We suffered a setback last year, but that does not mean the transformation is in crisis."

ICI saw pre-tax profits for the year to December 31 slump 17 per cent to £321 million as industrial chemicals reported a 14 per cent fall in volume along with declines of 3 per cent in coatings, materials and overall group volume. Industrial chemicals produced a £31 million loss in the last quarter, while petrochemicals suffered a 26 per cent collapse in sales over the whole year.

The total dividend is maintained at 32p a share, with a second interim payment of 19.5p due April 19. The company said it would review the next dividend on the basis of the performance of the core business, the disposal programme and the economic outlook. Earnings per share, after goodwill and exceptionals, fell to 26.7p (35.7p).

ICI is to shake up its bonus scheme for executives so that it is linked to cash generation and only rewards "hard-edged" achievements. It is also poised to reduce its headquaters operation, heightening speculation that it could move from Westminster.

Mr O'Neill insisted that the company was not vulnerable to a takeover and that it already had one of the biggest portfolios of specialty chemicals. The shares climbed 9p to 527p.

Tempus, page 30

ROY RILEY



ICI's Brendan O'Neill, left, and Alan Spall aim to reduce debt

Cammell Laird sees its boat come in

By Robert Lea

CAMMELL LAIRD, the ship repairer, prompted memories of the glory days of the Merseyside shipyards yesterday when it reported a near quadrupling in interim profits.

The company, famous earlier this century for building the *Mauretania* and the *Ark Royal*, reported pre-tax profits in its half year to October 31 of £4.7 million. Activities now include repairing Irish Sea ferries and converting vessels for North Sea oil fields.

The Cammell Laird name was resurrected four years ago when Coastline Industries bought the name and the dry docks that it leased in Birkenhead from VSEL.

Current growth, the company says, comes from increased dry dock capacity and the acquisition last year of operations on the Tyne and the Wear. Analysts expect full-year pre-tax profits of £9.7 million, rising to £15.4 million in 2000.

The dividend is 2p, up from 1.4p. The shares, floated 18 months ago at 100p, yesterday slipped 10p to 700p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Telewest sets time for digital launch

TELEWEST, one of the big three cable companies, yesterday said that it will launch digital services in the fourth quarter of this year and confirmed the placing of an initial order of 100,000 digital set-top boxes with Pace Micro Technology. The announcement means that all three large cable companies — Telewest, NTL and Cable & Wireless — plan to launch their main digital services at about the same time and all three have placed set-top box orders with Pace.

Telewest yesterday unveiled strong fourth-quarter operating figures boosted by its Millennium package of a telephone line and 14 cable channels for £12.99 a month. The Millennium package and good results from Front Row, the cable industry's pay-per-view film service, boosted cable television figures before the merger with General Cable. The number of cable television customers rose by 19.5 per cent to 724,287.

Trafficmaster deal

SHARES in Trafficmaster, the traffic information network, yesterday rose by more than 16 per cent after announcing a five-year contract to supply the AA with information. Trafficmaster will receive a "substantial" annual fee and a share of revenues. The AA will start using the information in the first half of this year, but it is as yet unclear how it will be deployed. Probable options are a website and a mobile phone service. The shares rose 89p to 641½p, near their 652p high.

Durlacher increase

DURLACHER, the AIM-listed technology investment group whose shares have risen 250 per cent since November, has reported pre-tax profits of £531,000 for its half year to December 31, up from £150,000. Earnings per share were 11.58p (3.51p). There is again no interim dividend. Geoffrey Chamberlain, chairman and chief executive, said: "It is our intention to expand each of our key functions at a pace sufficient to maximise the symbiotic relationship which exists between them."

Coats Viyella jobs go

COATS VIYELLA, the textiles company, is to close a knitwear factory that makes clothing for Marks & Spencer. It will make 287 staff redundant. The plant at Loughborough, Leicestershire, employs 430 people, but 143 jobs are to be switched to a plant at nearby Shepshed. The company, which said that the closure was part of a planned restructuring, is the latest in a long line of Marks & Spencer clothing suppliers to shed staff. Coats Viyella employs 9,500 textile workers in the UK.

Nightfreight ahead

NIGHTFREIGHT, the parcel delivery company, attributed its increase in profits in a deteriorating market to improved margins. Pre-tax profit for the year to November 30 was £3.5 million, up from £3 million last year, on a turnover of £87.3 million (£88.2 million). Earnings per share were 4.71p (4.15p) and the final dividend of 1.5p (1.3p) brings the total to 2.1p per share (1.8p). David Cobb, chairman, said: "Consolidation is inevitable and we expect to play a part in that process."

Swan Hill shares leap

SWAN HILL GROUP, a construction company, yesterday saw its shares leap 23p to 68½p after it said that it had received unsolicited approaches that may lead to an offer being made for it. In March last year, Swan Hill reported its first annual profit since 1994 after emerging from a long restructuring. The company, formerly known as Higgs & Hill, made pre-tax profits of £8.79 million for the year to December 31, 1997, against losses of £3.87 million in 1996.

Bass buys in Germany

BASS, the brewing and leisure group, has made its first bar-restaurant investment outside Britain with the acquisition of a 19-strong chain in Germany. The Alex Group bars, similar to Bass's All Bar One and Edward's chains in Britain, are said by the company to be "a toe in the water" in the continental market. The news came as the group reported a 2.2 per cent decline in beer volumes in pubs and bars and a 13.2 per cent decline in off-trade in the first quarter.

Cadbury's Dutch sale

CADBURY SCHWEPPES is pulling out of confectionary production in The Netherlands after a decision to sell its Dutch factories. Cadbury Faam is selling its production facilities, which have a net book value of £8.7 million to Astra Sweets, the Dutch company. Cadbury will concentrate instead on building up its brands in The Netherlands and Scandinavia and will source its products from other manufacturers.

AirTouch advances

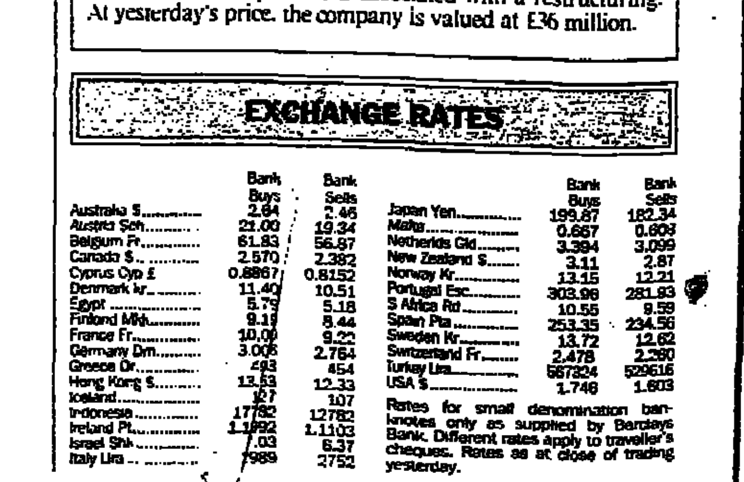
AIRTOUCH, the American telecommunications group that is being acquired by Vodafone, the British mobile phones group, for $66.5 billion (£40 billion), yesterday reported a 54 per cent leap in earnings in 1998 to $608 million. The company, which is based in San Francisco, said that it added 4.3 million customers during the year, with well over half coming from outside of the US, taking its total customer base to 17.6 million.

CCB expanding

COCA-COLA BEVERAGES (CCB), one of Coca-Cola's main bottlers and whose shares are listed in London, is expanding its presence in Romania by buying two bottling plants. CCB will pay £15 million for the territory owned by Ozgorkey Coca-Cola, which accounts for about 12 per cent of Coca-Cola's volume in Romania. The acquisition, taking CCB's share of Coca-Cola sales in Romania to 64 per cent, is its first since flotation last year. CCB shares fell ½p to 107p yesterday.

Chemring approached

SHARES of Chemring jumped 45p to 151p yesterday after the defence and engineering group said it was considering an approach that could lead to an agreed offer. Earlier this week, the company reported pre-tax profits of £1.25 million for the 13 months to October 31 on turnover of almost £75 million. In the previous year to September 30, the company incurred a £24 million loss after provisions associated with a restructuring. At yesterday's price, the company is valued at £36 million.



EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.64	2.46
Austria Sch	21.00	19.34
Belgium Fr	61.83	56.87
Canada $	2.570	2.382
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8867	0.8152
Denmark Kr	11.40	10.51
Egypt	5.79	5.18
Finland Mkk	9.19	8.44
France Fr	10.00	9.22
Germany Dm	3.006	2.764
Greece Dr	493	454
Hong Kong $	13.53	12.33
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	17782	12782
Ireland Pt	1.1992	1.1103
Israel Shk	7.03	6.37
Italy Lira	2989	2752
Japan Yen	199.87	182.34
Malta	0.667	0.608
Netherlds Gld	3.394	3.099
New Zealand $	3.11	2.87
Norway Kr	13.15	12.21
Portugal Esc	303.96	281.93
S Africa Rd	10.55	9.59
Spain Pta	253.35	234.56
Sweden Kr	13.72	12.62
Switzerland Fr	2.478	2.280
Turkey Lira	567324	529616
USA $	1.746	1.603

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

All at sea in the marketplace



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

While Eddie George and his colleagues on the Monetary Policy Committee continued their push for national canonisation yesterday, the markets appeared strangely wrong-footed by the latest half-point cut in interest rates. Sure, the committee nature of the MPC has in the past produced a number of compromise decisions. The Bank may even have had an early sight of the revisions being carried out on the average earnings data and certainly received a report on pay pressures from its regional agents. But with the *Quarterly Inflation* report looming — providing the MPC with a firm target on which to fix its sights — the City should have had enough clues as to the likely outcome.

Just as most economists have substantially revised their inflation expectations downwards since November, there is little reason to believe the Bank would have modified its own prediction otherwise. The Bank has also demonstrated in the current rate-cutting spree that it is prepared to adopt a more activist style, making larger rate reductions in an effort to revive business and consumer confidence.

The City consensus is that the Bank will now leave rates on hold for a few months before making another smaller move downwards towards 5 per cent by the end of the year. Certainly there is a reasonable argument that the Bank will not move in March, the MPC meeting closely preceding the Budget. But there was little else in the bland statement that accompanied yesterday's decision to suggest that the Bank has any intention of repeating the experimental "pause" it undertook in late 1997. Given the City's poor recent record of forecasting the Bank's behaviour, the benign inflation outlook and the continuing uncertainties about the health of both the domestic and international economy, it seems more reasonable to expect that the Bank will again surprise with its generosity. It must be remembered that the Bank's mandate includes supporting the Government's growth objectives — and unlike the European Central Bank there is no comfort zone for inflation. If inflation is set to dip below the 2.5 per cent target figure, the Bank has to take action. With some members of the MPC clearly indicating that they would like to see interest rates fall below an estimated "neutral" level of 4.5 per cent to stimulate the economy, the internal pressure remains for further cuts.

Not that this is likely to make much difference to the contrarians of the stock market. Having pushed shares back towards record levels despite the gloomy short-term economic outlook, the latest rate cut brought only a short-lived initial cheer before the market followed Wall Street lower. Indeed, with the market's eyes increasingly fixed abroad, suggestions that US rates might even have to rise and the ECB's dogmatic reluctance to consider an interest rate cut are far more likely to determine the stock market outlook.

Crash reaches Longbridge

Longbridge has been the ugly sister of the British motor industry longer than most can remember. At last, in a deal with unions, BMW agreed last December to make good years of under-investment by other owners that left productivity way behind best standards.

Oddly, there has appeared a remarkable lack of urgency to get this vital programme moving. Now we know why. Bernd Pischetsrieder, the friendly face of German ownership, may have been on the same wavelength as Brummie workers, but was not, it seems, able to convince the Munich hard men back home.

The five year strategy of reviving Rover's mid-market car business, rather than just Land Rover and the Mini, has got nowhere. Why pursue it at such huge cost when there is likely to be a world surplus of more modern capacity for a decade?

BMW is highly profitable, minus Rover. But it is not big enough in the world car league to throw investment and sustain heavy losses for several years at a factory that would, at best, be peripheral to its corporate future.

What made sense in 1994, when BMW bought Rover, now looks different. In the past two years, the outlook for the global car market and the industry's structure have been transformed. Longbridge has become a costly irrelevance, a lump of capacity ripe to be rationalised to the benefit of those that survive. The big questions in Munich seem to be whether to sell to General Motors, merge with Honda or forge a new survival strategy.

In Britain, however, Longbridge cannot be dismissed so cavalierly, especially by a Government whose predecessors, alongside the forerunners of today's union leaders, must bear much of the blame for its ills. Under the BMW plan, it was to retain 14,000 manufacturing jobs.

These are key jobs and skills for the West Midlands. On them also hang the future prospects of the components industry, which is already under threat from other global mergers.

Herr Pischetrieder is a gentleman who earned the respect due to one such, not least in becoming the preferred inheritor of the Rolls-Royce car brand. He also knew that BMW would not have been allowed to buy Rover without commitment to its car range.

If BMW is now to play hardball, as it may need to, the Government should again reply in kind, using every fair trick or foul to save Longbridge, if not in BMW's hands then in someone else's. No excuses for failure.

Retailers should use their loaf

Flogging basic commodity items for next to nothing is a familiar gimmick for supermarkets in quiet times. Once it was baked beans at 5p a tin. Now it is bread at 9p or 7p a loaf.

The game is ritualistic. The first to cut, in this case Asda, wins publicity as a champion of consumers. Responders, such as Tesco and Kwik Save, then match or beat the first cut to back up their own price promises.

The loss leader should attract more people into their stores, until we all tire of the game and prices go back to normal. At downmarket Kwik Save, the loaf now selling at 7p normally rates 17p.

Supermarkets claim this is harmless fun that helps hard-up shoppers. Not any more. Asda *et al* should know by now that they are being watched. The Office of Fair Trading is already trying to resolve claims that the big four are profiteering at the expense of hard-pressed British farmers, abusing their market power to squeeze suppliers and mark prices up heavily to consumers.

Bread is a different case. The main potential losers are the remaining independent bakers and corner shops who might be driven out of business before the big chains hike prices back up.

If game-players are to avoid a full monopoly vetting, they may have to convince the OFT that 17p is not profiteering, yet 7p is not predatory pricing. If they succeed, on the grounds that loss leaders are time-honoured, they still need to explain their crass timing to anxious investors.

Breakdown

RAC members ruing their missing £33,000 cheques should have seen the smile on the face of Neil Johnson, chief executive of their breakdown service yesterday. The aborted merger allowed RAC's people to pore over would-be partner Green Flag and get a much better idea of what their business could be worth. There is no going back. Having escaped the mess that is Cendant, they now face a queue of venture capitalists anxious to be almost as generous. The undeserving will get their big cheques after all.

Wolves victorious in bid battle with Marston's

By Dominic Walsh

WOLVERHAMPTON & Dudley Breweries has emerged victorious from its tit-for-tat bidding battle with Marston Thompson & Evershed, the rival brewer, after securing a resounding 73.45 per cent of Marston's shares.

The result brings down the curtain on what had become an increasingly bitter battle during the four months since Wolves first admitted it was stalking its Midlands neighbour. It also means that the audacious £330 million Marston's counterbid for Wolves, in a so-called Pac-Man defence, now lapses.

Shares in Marston's reacted by frothing 21½p higher to 306½p, while Wolves gained 11½p to 469p. At those prices, the final Wolves bid values its target at about £295 million, compared with its original offer worth £262 million, although it will also assume debts of £110 million. Marston's shareholders will receive 230p in cash and 0.175 new Wolves shares for each share held.

David Thompson, managing director of W&DB, described the result of the vote as "a ringing endorsement of the strategy we have proposed". Whereas the Marston's Pac-Man bid had envisaged closing W&DB's two breweries to focus on managed pubs, Mr Thompson intends to keep all three breweries and about 1,500 of the combined estate of 1,900 pubs.

The Marston's takeover brings with it several well-known brands, including Pedigree Bitter and the fashionable Pitcher & Piano chain of bars. Both will be retained, although Mr Thompson has agreed to sell 170 pubs to Greene King for about £80 million and has earmarked another 250 tenancies for immediate disposal.

Although the Wolves victory had been widely expected, Mr Thompson said: "I didn't know until midday whether we'd won. I remained on the edge of my seat until the very last moment." Allowing himself a wry smile after the result, he added: "I shall look forward to sampling a pint of Pedigree at the Burton brewery in due course."

Mr Thompson estimated the total costs of the deal, including the cost of Marston's abortive securitisation deal with Nomura, at about £30 million. However, he has promised to extract at least £17 million in annual savings from putting the two companies together — there will be 250 job losses — and believes the deal provides a platform for enhancing shareholder returns.

He added: "The regional brewers have been out of favour for some time now. We believe consolidation is the way forward and that this deal will help to bring the sector back into favour."

Nick Letchet and Mike Thompson, respectively chief executive and finance director of Marston's, who earned plaudits in the City for the way they handled the defence, are not expected to be offered jobs in the enlarged Wolves.

Tesco in talks with Samsung

By Sarah Cunningham

TESCO, the supermarkets group which bought a hypermarket business in Thailand last year, is in talks to enter the South Korean market.

The company is in advanced negotiations with Samsung Corporation, the trading arm of the Samsung Group, to set up a joint venture with its retail division. Samsung Corporation runs two department stores in Seoul and two discount centres in Taegu and Pusan. Samsung is also believed to be talking to a Japanese trading company. Tesco declined to comment.

The British food retailer is also investigating possibilities in Taiwan. Tesco said last month that its Lotus hypermarket in Thailand "continued to recover trade in difficult economic conditions and finished with like-for-like sales running ahead of last year".

ROY RILEY



Eyes on expansion: John Bowner, chief executive of the Swiss company Adecco, left, with Tony Reeves, his Delphi counterpart

Delphi chiefs in bid bonanza

By Chris Ayres

DIRECTORS of Delphi Group looked set to benefit from a multi-million pound bonanza yesterday after the IT recruitment company received a £167 million takeover offer.

The offer, from Adecco, the Swiss personnel services company, values the stake held in Delphi by Rony Reeves, its chief executive, at £3.6 million. Doug Woodward, a US non-executive director of Delphi, will see his stake valued at £2.4 million.

Delphi's board has already recommended Adecco's cash offer, which values the company at 565p a share. This includes a special 15p interim dividend. The offer represents a 50.7 per cent premium to the closing price of Delphi shares on January 29.

The shares rose 57½p to 550p yesterday. One year ago the shares traded at 827½p.

John Bowner, chief executive of Adecco, said Delphi would provide his company with a critical mass in the IT personnel services market around the world, especially in Europe.

"We will use Delphi as a springboard to expand into continental Europe," he said. The acquisition will help boost Adecco's revenues from IT to almost $1 billion (£600 million), accounting for about 10 per cent of its total sales.

Mr Bowner said that Adecco was not planning any job cuts following the merger, as Delphi would be added, not integrated, into its existing operations.

Adecco has a network of 3,000 offices in 48 countries. The company is listed on the Swiss, Paris and Frankfurt exchanges.

Yesterday Delphi announced the sale of its 30.5 per cent interest in Decan, a French IT recruitment company, for £25.3 million.

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US sale welcomed by SB investors

By Paul Durman

INVESTORS in SmithKline Beecham have welcomed the prospect that the drugs group is planning to sell Diversified Pharmaceutical Services, the American business bought for $2.3 billion (£1.4 billion) in 1994.

SB is believed to be close to a deal that may come as soon as next week. Although the group is expected to take a heavy loss on the disposal, its shares rose almost 4 per cent yesterday to 835½p.

The sale of Diversified will represent an admission of error by Jan Leschly, SB's ebullient chief executive. The acquisition of Diversified was Mr Leschly's first big strategic move, a deal struck within weeks of his taking over as chief executive.

Diversified is a pharmaceutical benefit manager (PBM), which controls the drugs bought under employer healthcare plans. PBMs were briefly seen to hold the key to the US healthcare market, but regulatory restrictions have prevented Diversified from favouring SB drugs.

Eli Lilly, the American pharmaceuticals group, has already taken an enormous loss on its PBM, which it sold last year to Rite Aid, a drugs retailer.

John Murphy, analyst at Goldman Sachs, suggested that SB may be planning to drop its total healthcare strategy to focus on pharmaceuticals, the most profitable of its businesses.

This would pose doubts over the future of Clinical Laboratories, the US blood and urine-testing business that is under persistent pressure to cut prices.

"The best returns have traditionally come from the pure pharma plays like Glaxo Wellcome and Pfizer," Mr Murphy said.

Diversified is not thought to make any money for SB. Mr Leschly has previously defended its contribution, saying it provides useful information for the rest of the group.

Step up for Fitness First

FITNESS FIRST, the AIM-listed health and fitness club operator, is to move to the Stock Exchange's official list in an attempt to improve its ability to raise new funds for expansion (Dominic Walsh writes).

Michael Balfour, managing director, said: "We've probably got sufficient cash to fund our expansion for the next 12 to 18 months, but that could change. If the right opportunities came up we would need to have the kind of investors on board to be able to tap them for money."

Since its AIM flotation in October 1996, the group's UK presence has grown from six clubs to 36 and it has another 33 in the pipeline. Its German joint venture, which has nine units, has another 14 in the pipeline, and Mr Balfour said that he was seeking similar opportunities in Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium.

Total UK memberships increased from almost 24,000 to more than 52,000 last year, contributing to a doubling of pre-tax profits to £2.7 million in the year to October 31. Earnings per share reached 8.04p (4.36p), but there will be no dividend until next year as profits are ploughed into new openings.

Mr Balfour said that the company's "affordable fitness" concept means it is well placed to withstand any economic downturn.

Tempus, page 30

Microsoft video blunder

MICROSOFT has suffered its most embarrassing day in court as a video demonstration it offered in its defence to an anti-trust action was exposed as false (Oliver August writes from New York).

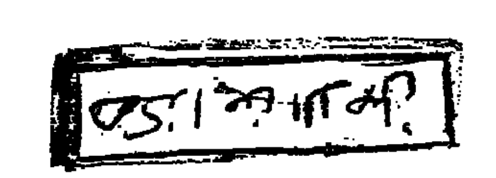
The software company tried to show the problems with a program written by a Justice Department technician and used as evidence in support of its anti-trust action. The program separates the Windows operating system from Microsoft's Internet browser. The Justice Department claims that Microsoft integrated the two products to gain control of the browser market.

In its defence, Microsoft suggested that the browser and the operating system could not be split without creating computer problems. In its video, it tried to show those problems.

However, it turned out that it had failed to use the department's separation program although it claimed to have done so. The department saw the inconsistency on the menu bar of the filmed computer screen.

James Allchin, a Microsoft technician, said: "I am going to have to go back and find out what happened. They filmed the wrong system and probably grabbed the wrong screen shot."

The Justice Department said the incident was "obviously embarrassing to Microsoft" and tried to use it to undermine the defence's credibility.







STOCK MARKET — MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators circle FKI in the hope of an offer

IF YOU take the view that there is no smoke without fire, then we can assume that there is a bid on the way for **FKI**.

The price of the engineer raced up 13p to 169p in heavy turnover that saw almost 11 million shares change hands by the close of business. Not bad for a company that lost its chief executive last year and subsequently saw its share price plunge from 227p to a low of 102½p in October.

Trading has proved difficult for the company. In November Bob Beeston, chief executive, gave a gloomy rundown of prospects. In spite of a 13.5 per cent increase in profits at the halfway stage, he said that the group was vulnerable to the worldwide recession.

The group's current price tag of £963 million means that any bidder could pick up the business for a snip.

One broker said: "We have seen a lot of sharp price movements in the engineering sector. There has been talk of various bids, but today's move in FKI has been backed by solid turnover in the shares."

There was little apparent response to the half-point cut in interest rates with the London market giving up a 101-point lead to close virtually unchanged on the day. London's reversal followed opening falls on Wall Street, where prices gave ground in response to the threat of belt tightening by the Federal Reserve. The FTSE 100 index finished 0.4 down at 5,939.9 so once again it was left up to second-liners to generate interest with the FTSE 250 index up 19.4 at 5,232.6. Turnover was again more than a billion shares.

The buyers were chasing **Northern Leisure**, sharply higher with a rise of 9p to 138p. It follows comments in this column linking the group to rival **Luminar**, up 27½p to 760p. Word from the marketplace suggests Luminar may be prepared to offer an all-share deal in excess of 200p.

EMI Group was the best performer among the top 100 with a rise of 32p to 432p. Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, has raised its recommendation on the shares from "hold" to "buy" on the back of its involvement in the Internet.

British Telecom eased another 3½p to 950½p but Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has been waxing lyrical about prospects, having raised its target price from 880p to £11. It follows the decision by BT to invest a further £5 billion over the next five years. It rates the shares a "market outperformer".

Rival **Cable & Wireless** received a welcome boost from its mobile telephone interests catapulting the price 33p to 865½p. The group has seen customers for its One-2-One subsidiary pass the two million mark for the first time.

There was an almost audible sigh of relief from the high street retailers to news of the latest cut in bank base rates. It is hoped the move will help to boost consumer expenditure. **Debenhams** advanced 15p to 413½p, and there were rises at **Kingfisher**, 26p to 666p, **Allied Carpets**, 4p to 39p, **Boots**, 1½p to 896½p, **JJB Sports**, 11p to 365p, **New Look**, 16p to 145p, and **Wickes**, 17½p, to 249½p. **Hamleys** also stood out with a rise of 16p to 142p. Three seperate lines totalling 560,000 went through the market late on Wednesday at the 140p level, a sizeable premium to the ruling price.

By contrast, the banks gave up an early lead perturbed by increased competition and reduced margins. **Royal Bank of Scotland** fell 36½p to £11.52½, **HSBC** 29p to £16.20, and **Lloyds TSB** 22½p to 795½p.

The speculators continued to drive **BICC** higher with a rise of almost 4½p to 82½p. Wassall holds about 9 per cent of the shares and continues to monitor the possibility of making a bid.

The 140p a share offer for **Stakis Hotels**, up 26p to 137p, generated speculative support for the rest of the hotels sector. **Jarvis Hotels**, up 9p to 103½p, is seen as the next target for a bidder, while support was also seen in **Millennium & Copthorne**, 32p to 474½p, **Macdonald Hotels**, 5p to 155½p. However, **Ladbroke** fell 4½p to 238¾p.

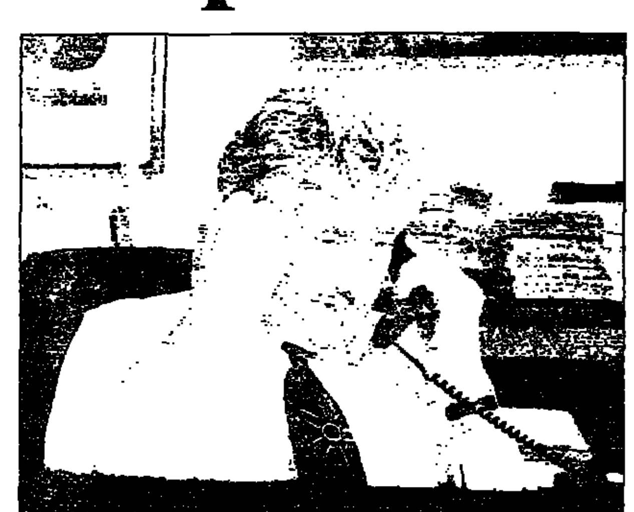
Thistle Hotels advanced 5p to 142½p having hit a low of 103¾p in December, following the breakdown in takeover talks when the price stood at the 200p level.

High-flying **ARM Holdings** continued to power ahead with the price, lifting 155p to £20.37½. This gave one director the opportunity to cash in some of his chips. Robin Saxby, chief executive, has sold 60,000 shares at £19.80 reducing his holding to 1.34 million, or 2.85 per cent.

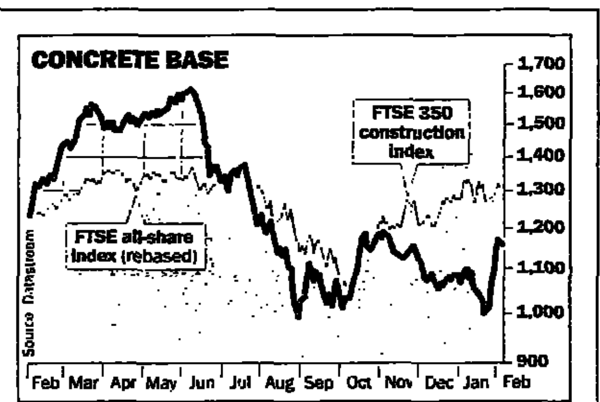
AIM-listed **Gartland Whalley & Barker** rose 8½p to 103½p on the back of further share purchases by the board. Anthony Gartland has bought 25,000 shares at 95p taking his total holding to 53.2 million shares, or 61.5 per cent.

□ **GILT-EDGED:** The prospect of strong US non-farm payroll numbers later today undermined Treasury bonds and left gilts nursing losses on the day. Sentiment appeared unaffected by the half-point cut in base rates. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 53p to £118.63.

□ **NEW YORK:** US shares caught the bond markets' interest rate cold. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 36.56 points to 9,330.25.



Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of EMI, the shares of which rose 32p to 432p, buoyed by its Internet interests



HOUSEBUILDERS have enjoyed fresh stimulus during the past week as signs of a pick-up in the housing market have been underpinned by the latest cut in interest rates. Now there are also signs of a revival for the construction industry.

It comes in the wake of an "unsolicited approach" for Swan Hill Group, formerly Higgs & Hill, which responded with a rise of 23p to 68½p. The company's most recent published net asset value is 115p a share. The identity of the suitor was not disclosed. Mark Hake at Merrill Lynch, the broker, said: "You are probably looking at housebuilder, a regional or national player weak in the South, where most of Swan's business is." City speculators claim this could be the first in a series of moves aimed at consolidating the industry.

Those also seen as possible takeover targets include Henry Boot, up 15p at 210p, Birse Group, ½p to 10¼p, EBC Group, 1p to 56p, and Tilbury Douglas, 2½p to 233½p.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	9330.25 (-36.56)
S&P Composite	1257.84 (-14.23)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	14086.85 (-74.76)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	9438.65 (+18.80)

Amsterdam:

AEX Index	531.27 (+4.15)

Sydney:

AO	2940.5 (+22.3)

Frankfurt:

DAX	5077.85 (-7.81)

Singapore:

Straits	1378.90 (+12.11)

Brussels:

BEL20	3458.72 (+18.25)

Paris:

CAC-40	4167.42 (-21.42)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	1364.30 (-60.60)

London:

FT 30	3629.1 (+9.8)
FTSE 100	5939.9 (-0.4)
FTSE 250	5232.6 (+19.4)
FTSE 350	2827.9 (+1.5)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2770.85 (+2.04)
FTSE All-Share	2732.32 (+2.51)
FTSE Non Financials	2804.18 (+12.42)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.93 (-0.44)
FTSE Govt Secs	115.78 (-0.51)
Bargains	75262
SEAQ Volume	1247.4m
US$	1.6380 (-0.0002)
Euro	0.6693 (-0.0033)
£:SDR	1.1810
Exchange Index	100.6 (+0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

RPI	164.4 Dec (2.8%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIx	162.4 Dec (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100		...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98½		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	119½		...
Close Bros Dev VCT	100		...
Five Arrs Uts Cv Ln 2040	107¾	+	½
Gander Properties	7		...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	108	−	¾
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	99	−	1
Singer & Frd AIM VCT	100		...
Virtual Internet	200		...
Yeoman II Equity Units	102½	+	1½
Yeoman II Inv Tst Cap	5¼		...
Yeoman II Inv Tst Inc	97½	+	½
Yeoman II Zero Div Pf	117	−	¼

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Sean Hill	68½	+ 23	+ 50.5
Chemring	149	+ 43	+ 40.5
Cortecs	23¼	+ 5½	+ 30.9
Stakis	137	+ 26	+ 23.4
Sthern Pacific	94½	+ 15	+ 18.8
Aortech	72½	+ 10	+ 16.0
Torotrak	95	+ 12½	+ 15.1
Central Pacific	216½	+ 28¼	+ 15.0
Gyrus	173½	+ 22	+ 14.5
JBA Hldgs	138½	+ 17½	+ 14.4
Hamleys	142	+ 16	+ 12.6
Six Hundred	77	+ 8½	+ 12.4
New Look	145	+ 16	+ 12.4
Photobition	260	+ 28	+ 12.0
Delphi	550	+ 57½	+ 11.6
NXT	381	+ 39½	+ 11.5
Allied Carpets	39	+ 4	+ 11.4
Helphire Gp	671	+ 68½	+ 11.3
Corp Services	161½	+ 16	+ 10.9
Nord Anglia	185	+ 18	+ 10.7
Peptide Thera	147½	+ 14	+ 10.4
Informa	343½	+ 32	+ 10.2
Harveys Furn	104	+ 9½	+ 10.0
PSD	417½	+ 37½	+ 9.8
Tibbet & Britn	355½	+ 31½	+ 9.7

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
GEI Int	34½	− 21	− 37.8
Cityview	28¾	− 9½	− 24.8
Russell (A)	105	− 15	− 12.5
AIM	127½	− 15	− 10.5
Coutts Cnsltg	28½	− 3	− 9.5
MFI	37½	− 3½	− 8.5
Regent Inns	175	− 16	− 8.3
Salvesen (C)	92	− 7	− 7.0
P & O	107	− 7½	− 6.5
COLT Telecom	1170	− 79½	− 6.3
Vickers Grp	149½	− 10	− 6.2
Allied Textile	105	− 6½	− 5.8
Daily Mail A	3253½	−200	− 5.7
Sun Life & P	501	− 28½	− 5.3

TEMPUS

Chemical imbalance

IT ALMOST beggars belief. Imperial Chemical Industries used to be *the* core shareholding. From Throgmorton Street to Tunbridge Wells the initials ICI were synonymous with UK equity market investment. Can it really be that the fortunes of ICI are so bad, and the prospects so poor, that the time has come to cut the cord from the mother of all stocks?

Sadly, yes. Without the pharmaceutical excitement of Zeneca, ICI's commodity chemicals business has long looked weak. In a last roll of the dice new ICI bet the ranch buying Unilever's specialty chemicals for £5 billion. But disposals of the commodity chemicals side — required to pay off debt taken on to finance the Unilever deal — have not come quickly enough. ICI's ambitious programme to shake off its old persona hit the buffers when the US's Federal Trade Commission blocked the £1 billion sale of its tioxide operation to DuPont. Last year it encountered a similar block over the £285 million sale of Crosfield to WR Grace in the US. Now buyers are scarce and even if buyers can be drummed up ICI is unlikely to get as decent prices. Little prospect, therefore, for a speedy reduction of the £4.2 billion debt mountain.

And without off-loading the undesired commodity operations ICI cannot push ahead into its new areas. To be fair, progress with fine chemicals for use in fragrances such as Tommy Girl and Avon's Woman of the Earth lightened an otherwise gloomy set of results yesterday.

The unchanged 32p dividend supports the current share price but without a rapid turnaround future payments are threatened. Meanwhile, a rescue takeover seems unlikely.

Sell.

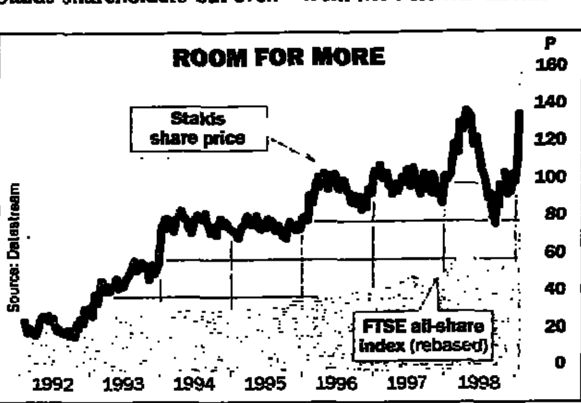
Stakis

SO DAVID MICHELS and his magic Stakis Hotels have got Ladbroke interested in a bid. Shareholders who have ridden with Mr Michels since his arrival in late 1991 have seen returns well in excess of twice the market average. Those involved longer can thank him for pulling the company back from the brink of collapse.

Now it looks like Stakis shareholders will have the chance to exit, and the price could be a good deal higher than the market price of 137p currently indicates.

Stakis is in such good shape that Ladbroke is unlikely to be alone in showing interest. Whitbread immediately springs to mind and encouragingly for Stakis holders, Whitbread has never knowingly underpaid for acquisitions — viz David Lloyd Leisure and the UK Marriott hotel business. Ladbroke's sighting shot is pitched at 140p. But shareholders should demand nothing less than 180p and the likelihood that their demands will be heard means there are quick profits for buyers here.

The appearance of Whitbread in the auction house will be greeted warmly by Stakis shareholders but even at this early stage it seems more likely that Ladbroke will win control. If it does it also seems likely that Mr Michels will be hired by Ladbroke — a former employer. And as long as Ladbroke is allowed to make its offer, at least partly, in shares, that would give Stakis holders the chance to continue benefiting from Mr Michels' talents.



Delphi

GENEROUS as it may seem at first sight, shareholders in Delphi may feel short-changed by Adecco's 565p-a-share cash offer. Two years ago the IT recruitment company's shares were at 905p.

But fortunes changed after a series of management blunders that led to an aborted tilt at the Nasdaq stock market in the US. A profit warning — caused when Delphi failed to to see that too many of the computer nerds on their books were on holiday at the same time — deepened the misery and the shares bombed to 246p in October.

So compared to two years ago Adecco's 565p cash offer (including a "special" interim dividend of 15p), may look disappointing. But given the trials of the past 18 months, it is too good to pass up.

The offer values Delphi at £167 million, a 51 per cent premium to its closing price of 375p on January 29 and more than double the lows plumbed last October.

The price takes into account Delphi's market leadership in the UK and probably a bit more. Shareholders might want to hold out for a better offer, but it is likely that Tony Reeves, the chief executive of Delphi who stands to make £3.6 million from the deal, has cast around for the best deal. With Adecco mopping up 22 per cent of the shares in the market yesterday, it looks like a done deal.

Fitness First

MANAGEMENT at Fitness First, which has grown from six to 45 clubs since it floated on AIM in October 1996, has attracted little but praise during its short stock market history. Shares in the firm have also recovered well from last summer's sudden loss of confidence in the leisure sector.

After sparkling results yesterday, shareholders can be confident that Fitness First will continue to impress. While the doubling of profits was largely down to new openings, there was encouraging evidence that mature clubs are growing profits too. Its first club, located in Bournemouth, has increased profits every year for six years with no rise in subscription rates.

Low subs — at £31 a month half the cost of snootier operators such as Vardon and First Leisure — should assure growth at Fitness First even if the fashion for fitness wanes or gym-goers' wallets feel the unpleasant chill of recession. But the health and fitness market is still relatively undeveloped and Fitness First's target of having 100 clubs is not outrageous. Moreover, with 80 per cent of revenues coming through direct debits inertia plays to its advantage.

The racy rating reflects growth prospects and its managerial abilities. Nevertheless, accumulate.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE — COCOA; ROBUSTA COFFEE; WHITE SUGAR (FOB); MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB); PRODUCTS ($/MT) Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery); IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd) GAS OIL; BRENT (6.00pm)

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES — LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t); LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t); LIFFE POTATO (£/t); RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k); LIFFE FREIGHT (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

(Official) (Volume prev day) — LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

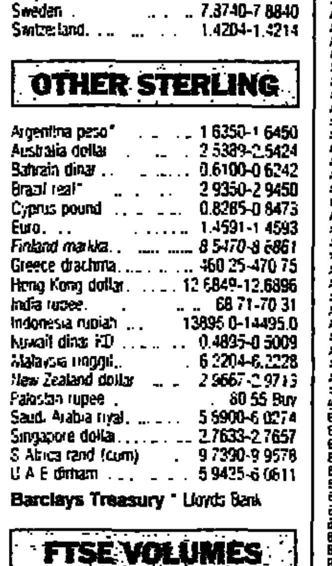
[illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Mar 99	119.37	119.52	118.58	118.63	67086
	Jun 99	120.17	120.18	119.58	119.55	558
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Mar 99				115.08	0
Five Year Gilt	Mar 99				[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Sterling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euromark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth EuroLira	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euroswiss	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FTSE 100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: [illegible] Discount Market Loans: [illegible] Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: [illegible] Close: [illegible] High: [illegible] Low: [illegible] AM: [illegible] PM: [illegible] Krugerrand: [illegible] Platinum: [illegible] Silver: [illegible] Palladium: [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New York	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5527-1.5540
Canada	1.4933-1.4943
Denmark	6.5950-6.5980
Euro	1.1265-1.1269
Hong Kong	7.7489-7.7494
Japan	113.06-113.16
Malaysia	3.7999-3.8002
Norway	7.6680-7.6780
Singapore	1.6878-1.6898
Sweden	7.8740-7.8840
Switzerland	1.4204-1.4214

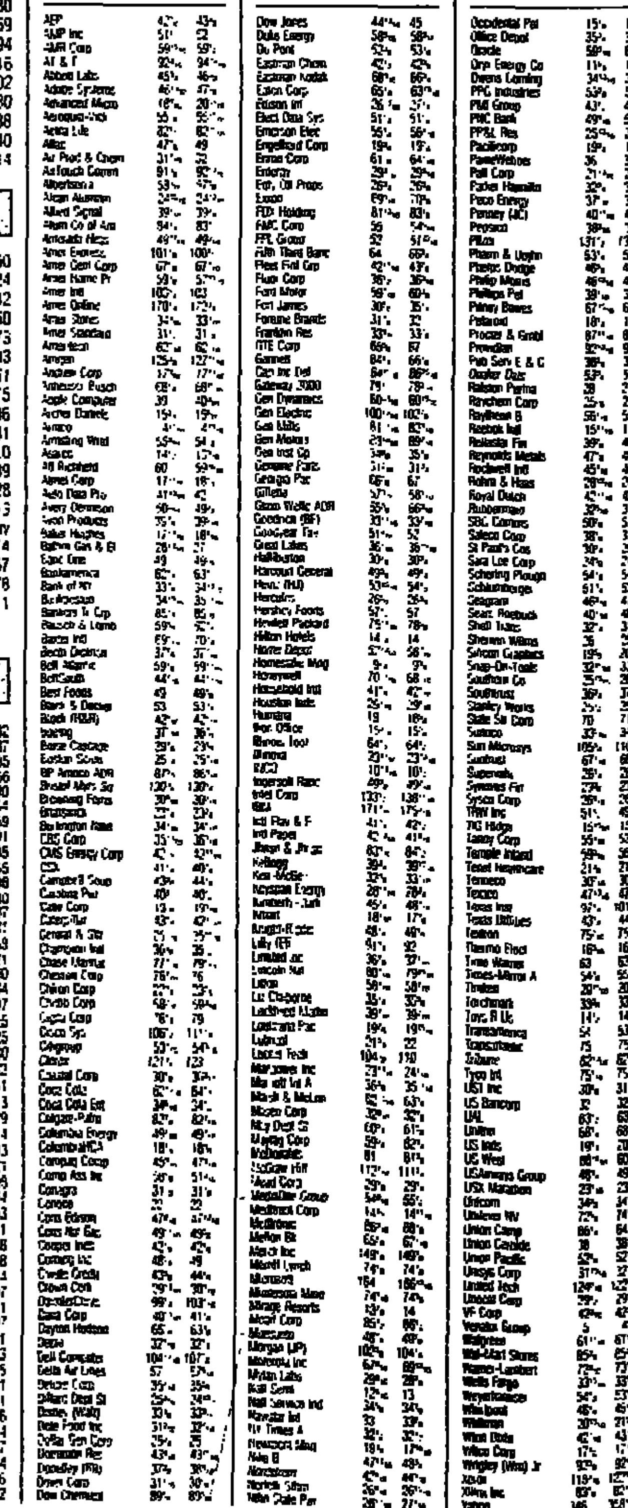
OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6350-1.6450
Australia dollar	2.5389-2.5424
Bahrain dinar	0.6100-0.6242
Brazil real*	2.9350-2.9450
Cyprus pound	0.8285-0.8473
Euro	1.4591-1.4593
Finland markka	8.5470-8.6861
Greece drachma	460.25-470.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.6849-12.6896
India rupee	68.71-70.31
Indonesia rupiah	13895.0-14495.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4895-0.5009
Malaysia ringgit	6.2204-6.2228
New Zealand dollar	2.9667-2.9713
Pakistan rupee	80.55 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9900-6.0274
Singapore dollar	2.7633-2.7657
S Africa rand (com)	9.7390-9.9578
U A E dirham	5.9425-6.0611

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	742	Land Secs	2,932
ASDA Gp	12,563	Legal & Gn	3,937
Abbey Ntl	1,996	Lloyds TSB	12,385
Alliance & Leic	853	LucasVarity	13,566
Allied Dom	3,574	Marks Spr	11,730
Allied Zurich	3,185	Nat Grid	6,454
Amvescap	3,489	Nat Power	7,259
AB Foods	3,686	NatWest Bk	4,601
Bk of Scot	6,322	Norwich Un	3,585
BAA	5,916	Orange	2,165
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



WALL STREET

	Feb 4 midday	Feb 3 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Community banking key to assault on social exclusion

Prosperous Britain must genuinely be beginning to believe that the experiment with an independent Bank of England is proving a success. The latest rate cut yesterday provided another boost for homeowners and businesses alike, leaving interest rates at their lowest level for more than four years.

Yet for all the emphasis on the machinations of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), there is a substantial section of society for whom the latest rate cut will make little difference. The sink estates of the inner cities have been largely bypassed in the recent economic boom. With no mortgages and little access to bank finance, the inflation views of Eddie George are about as relevant as the financial crisis at the Royal Opera House.

In one of its bolder policy moves, the Government has made trying to end the "social exclusion" suffered by those inhabiting the fringes of the British economy a top priority. It has pledged to spend £800 million over the next three years supporting policies designed to tackle traditional poverty issues such as homelessness and poor housing, through to the more recently identified problems of mobile phone deprivation and "shopping desert" areas.

Some 17 inner-city "pathfinder" areas have been identified to run pilot projects with the aim of rolling out successful start-ups to other areas. No less than 18 special action task forces have been established to provide policy support.

Only one action group, however, has been specifically charged with the fundamental task of devising ways of encouraging businesses back into no-go regions. Lacking the big names of many of the Government's more high-profile task forces, its work has gone largely unnoticed. Beyond Ed Mayo, the head of the left-leaning New Economics Foundation, the task force consists mainly of anonymous civil servants and voluntary sector workers with only Andrew Robinson, community manager at NatWest Bank, providing representation from the mainstream corporate sector.

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS


ALASDAIR MURRAY

The absence of widespread business representation on the social action task forces reflects a deep-seated failing that is as much the fault of Government as business. As Mr Robinson says, Britain has traditionally approached social exclusion problems by throwing money at deprived communities. There is now a general acceptance that this has not only proved ineffective but may even have heightened the problem by creating grant dependency. The new thrust of policy is to find ways for these communities to tap into the mainstream financing, to try to ensure long-term viability. It is no coincidence that Mr Robinson, a Canadian by birth, learnt his skills in the far more developed community banking markets of North America.

The US has long defined the need for adequate commercial finance as the root of the problem. The Community Reinvestment Act has attempted to arrest the drift into the suburbs by forcing banks to lend wherever they raise deposits, while niche community lending banks have sprung up in the inner cities.

The British Government has for the moment backed off from making such community lending compulsory, unconvinced this would genuinely help many of the most deprived areas. Although about 20 per cent of the population does not hold a bank account, the Banks retort that only 1 per cent are ever refused an account and the problem is as much the reluctance of certain sections of the population to seek out a mainstream lender as any mass discrimination.

Mr Robinson believes that the experience of banks such as South Shore in Chicago will provide a far more useful model for bridging the funding gap. South Shore has developed a strong hold on central Chicago banking by developing a new risk model for the local home loans market. It found that strategic lending has a knock-on effect, encouraging nearby householders to consider investing in their houses and, as the street improves, attracting businesses back into the locality. As Mr Robinson emphasises, for the US banks this is profit-driven rather than a charitable or PR exercise. Noticeably, NatWest is treating its community banking experiments as a marketing exercise rather than a charity project.

Profitable, however, does not mean that this form of banking will ever produce an acceptable rate of return. Niche community banks will be able to take some of the strain, but a nationwide solution will still require support from the large retail banks. The Government can try to coax and cajole, but ultimately a serious assault on social exclusion is going to need an immense amount of private sector goodwill.

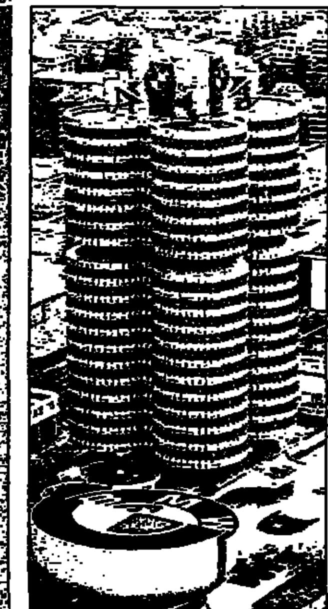
Family ties that drive BMW forward

Sigrid Aufterbeck reports on the emergence of a new generation at one of Germany's industrial dynasties


WOLFGANG BERA

Bernd Pischetsrieder, the chief executive of BMW, who faces his supervisory board today

Holding the Key: Susanne Klatten, right, with her mother, Johanna, second from the right, at a ceremony to commemorate the opening of the Herbert Quandt school in Pritzwalk, the town where the family comes from


BMW's headquarters, which is situated in Munich

Bernd Pischetsrieder has had a long and distinguished career in German industry. Yet as the BMW chief executive faces the car and motorcycle maker's supervisory board today, he might reflect that his future is being determined by two factors — the unpopularity of Rover among British car buyers, and the influence of two billionaires in their thirties.

The feeling in Bavaria is that the decision that could end Herr Pischetsrieder's career at BMW, lies in the hands of Susanne Klatten and Stefan Quandt, the heirs of the family that controls BMW. Today's meeting will be the first significant move by the 36-year-old businesswoman and mother of three, and her 33-year-old brother.

The pair joined BMW's supervisory board two years ago. Along with Johanna Quandt, their mother, they hold 45.6 per cent of BMW's shares.

Despite their vast wealth, the two are regarded as being down-to-earth. Both would probably have succeeded in business, even without the benefit of the Quandt family name.

Susanne, who studied in Britain and has a BSc, started out in advertising before working at BMW and then in a bank. She went on to study in Lausanne and, in 1988, became an assistant to the publisher Hubert Burda, a job she left to work with her husband — an independent entrepreneur — who spent some time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston.

Despite having three children, she manages to spend much of her time at the family's corporate headquarters, the Günther Quandt Haus (named after their grandfather), in the Hessen town of Bad Homburg.

Her brother's CV reads equally well. Stefan studied economics and engineering at Karlsruhe University, and then worked for the Boston Consulting Group in Munich for four months, before joining the family's Datacard Corporation in the US. What was planned to be a six months' secondment lasted almost three years, including time in Hong Kong marketing Datacard. Since 1996 he has worked full-time at Bad Homburg.

Thanks to their father's desire to expose his children to every element of the Quandt family's diverse empire, both Susanne and Stefan are not merely involved in BMW.

Susanne is significant shareholder of Altana, a pharmaceutical and chemicals company. Stefan owns Delton, a holding company whose subsidiaries include Van-Laack, the shirt producer, and Heel, which makes homeopathic remedies. Within Germany it is thought that this is a preparation for a career that should see him eventually become head of BMW's supervisory board.

If you own all these companies, and half of BMW on top of that, all you really need to do is cash in the annual dividend and spend the rest of the year shopping. However, the Quandt family prefers instead to concentrate on its policy of developing its fortune through conservative investments.

However, the bigger those companies become, the more difficult it gets to introduce capital for further expansion. If the family wants to maintain its position of authority at BMW, it has to reinvest each time the companies float new shares. That is only possible if the investment provides enough returns.

It is a problem that the Siemens family has had to face up to — with less success. After the Second World War it owned a fifth of Siemens, but now holds less than 2 per cent.

Both Susanne Klatten and Stefan Quandt have repeatedly emphasised that they intend to keep BMW independent, and have resisted all takeover bids, which have become increasingly common. Among the "grooms around the bride" were Ferdinand Piech, head of rival carmaker, VW, who is still licking his wounds after losing the rights to the Rolls-Royce name to BMW.

This is because the Quandt family's relationship with BMW is not merely financial. The company might not even exist if it wasn't for the entrepreneurial guts of Susanne and Stefan's ancestors.

The family is descended from Dutch immigrants who settled and became wealthy from the textile trade in the Brandenburg town of Pritzwalk.

Günther Quandt — who lived from 1881 to 1954 — increased the family's fortune through clever investments in consumer products and batteries, which boomed during the 1920s and 1930s. He was a big backer of both DaimlerBenz, and BMW, which at that time made its name as a manufacturer of aero-engines and motorcycles.

After the war, with the German aero industry in ruins, BMW focused on automobiles, which they had started building on a small scale during the 1920s. The postwar years saw legendary models, praised by designers, but which sold badly and nearly drove BMW out of business. Facing bankruptcy, the shareholders were presenteded with a takeover-bid by Daimler-Benz.

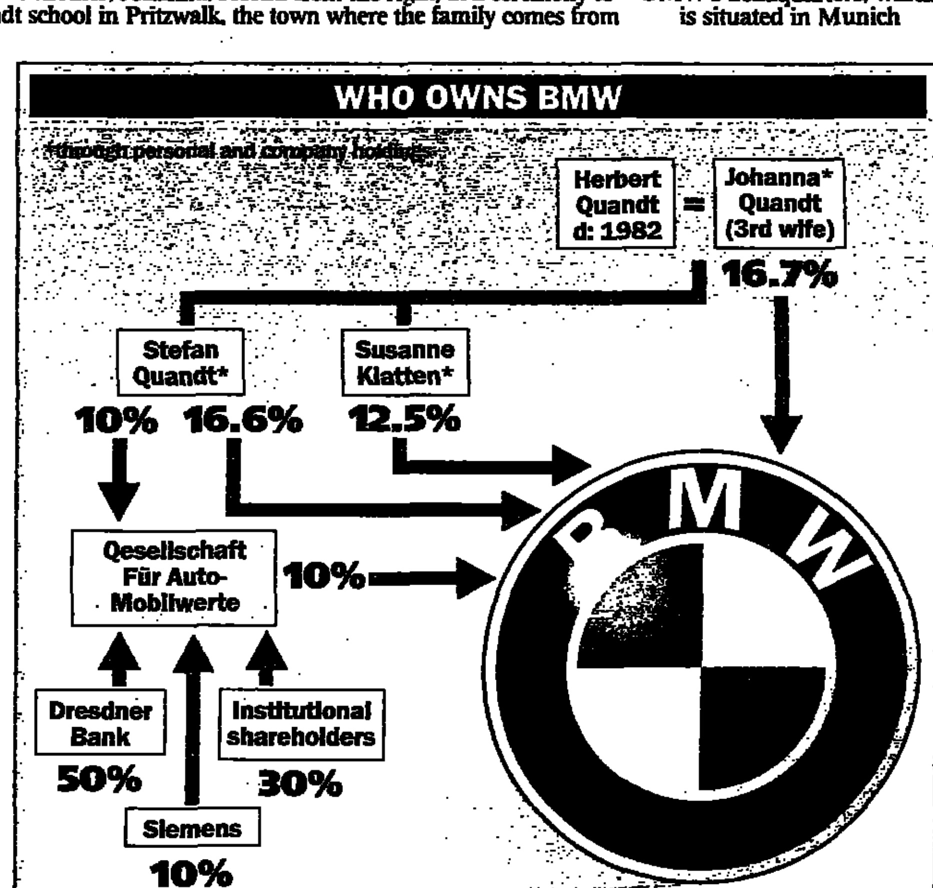
Howeve, at a meeting in late 1959 that was to become legendary, the investors surprisingly turned down the bid, and as the management dithered, Herbert Quandt, Günter's son, stepped into the breach. He provided the lion's share of the rescue capital and developed the company's strategy of building affordable, high-quality cars.

Before Herbert Quandt died in 1982, his billions were distributed among his six children from three marriages. His first daughter Sylvia, a painter, was given a private income. Sonja, Sabina and Sven from his second marriage received shares in the Vatra Group. However, the huge package of BMW shares went — among other investments — to his family with Johanna, his third wife, and their two children.

The two youngsters initially kept their BMW investment at arm's length. Herbert Quandt had installed Johanna, and Graf von der Golz, a trusted friend, as custodians. In 1997, when Herr von der Golz and Johanna, both turned 70, they handed over their seats on the BMW supervisory board to Susanne and Stefan. Johanna, however, has kept her stake in BMW, and remains as the "Grand Old Dame".

Eberhard von Kuenheim, the legendary chief executive who is credited with restoring BMW's fortunes, also continues to wield considerable influence. A member of the supervisory board since he retired in 1993, he has overseen the struggle between Herr Pischetsrieder and Wolfgang Reitzle. Analysts have criticised his decision to install Herr Pischetsrieder, but give Herr Reitzle almost as much power in the company (it is said they both earn the same salary).

Herr von Kuenheim, who will retire from the supervisory board this May, must face up to the fact that his decision to allow a rivalry at BMW's top has had disastrous results. Today's meeting might show that Susanne Klatten and Stefan Quandt are now willing to make themselves heard and introduce a new era at BMW.





IN Business Life TOMORROW

Once more unto the breach dear friends: Management training with Henry V

Rome groan

OUR own dear BAA is poised to bid for the two airports serving Rome, the fifth-busiest in Europe if you combine their respective traffic volumes. If this happens it will be despite a bit of last-minute chauvinism on the part of some Italian MPs.

BAA — which I call British Airports Authority whenever I run out of pens, because they always sent you one with the right name on it in mute correction — is in with Carlo de Benedetti's holding company CIR. The Italian Parliament was yesterday to have sanctioned the sale of 54 per cent of the company that operates the airports but does not seem to have got around to it.

BAA is therefore waiting for the official clearance to bid, at a cost of about £450 million. There has been strong opposition to the sale to any foreign concern. The presence of de Benedetti, who will have a minority stake, could lessen this, although any formal insistence that he be included would be contrary to the Treaty of Rome.

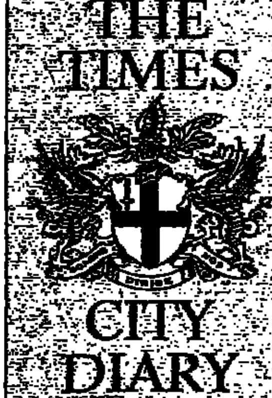
There is a second possible bidder, a consortium including Benetton, Pirelli and the fashion house Trussardi. A curious combination, and one hopes the wind is with BAA.

"Don't panic dear, we're in luck"

A CITY type arrived back from lunch the other day to find a note from a fairly new secretary that a regular contact had rung. So could he ring so-and-so "at Golden Sucks".

Double date

THE campaign by Marks & Spencer to endear itself to the City after the disasters of late last year has not started well. M&S has called retail analysts to its Baker Street headquarters for a briefing on the evening of February 18.



Unfortunately this is the day of the annual dinner of investment analysts at the Grosvenor House, a sacred date in any scribblers' diary as the investor relations people really should have known.

Retail analysts are less than happy. They will miss at least the pre-dinner G&Ts and possibly the first course.

It all seems so like the M&S of old. Not only will the analysts start off feeling negative, it is unlikely many will be able to remember much of the briefing the next morning. Or be in any fit state to write it down.

Just the job

THE CV of Peter Bennett, one of those senior ING Barings executives who left in October after the resignation of chairman Marinus Minderhoud and the loss of 1,200 jobs, arrives on my desk. The much-travelled Bennett has just landed a job at JM, the information technology headhunter.

His career, as it is set out, is impossible to credit unless he has access to a convenient time machine. Furthermore, he doesn't ever seem to have joined Barings, let alone left it.

Bennett admits that the account does, indeed, contain errors, and that they are his. So there you have it. The headhunter who could not draw up his own CV.

A READER has decided to renew the rental on his mobile phone. This was bought for £149 on one of those cheap "Pay Once For The Whole Year" deals. Vodafone attempts to charge him more than £200 for the next year's rental.

He points out that the latest one-year introductory offer is for just £129. What is to stop him from junking the earlier deal and taking up this offer, so saving more than £70?

Nothing. Vodafone confirms to me that it is indeed cheaper to throw away the phone and sign up for another one than to keep the old phone and rent it for another year. "It's called competition."

The most worrying thing is that only myself and the reader seem to see anything remotely odd about this.

Tiny tease

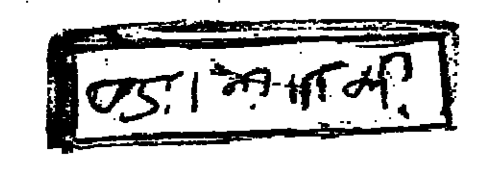
AN OLD associate of the late Tiny Rowland calls, amused by Lonrho's proposed change of name to Lonmin. He was with Rowland in Africa shortly after the end of white minority rule in Rhodesia and the change of name to Zimbabwe.

Tiny met the new Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, who suggested that the company change its named from Lonrho, as in London and Rhodesia, to reflect the country's new name. "Robert," said Tiny. "Whoever heard of a name like Lonzim? Nobody would take us seriously."

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk


Tongue-in-cheek Tiny Rowland won name game



	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB GOVETT UNIT TRUST LTD				
0171 378 7979 Dealing: 0171 407 7666				
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	143.65	153.66	- 0.23	
-do- NAV to Jun 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	114.78	122.75	+ 0.45	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98	...	...
US Eqy Safeguard	96.86	103.02	+ 0.53	
Cash	950.97	955.72†		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	429.44	456.90	- 5.50	1.80
UK Small Cos	86.80	92.83	+ 0.45	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	105.47	112.80	+ 0.09	1.69
Geared UK Index	#23.665	#24.982	- 0.40	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.64	91.60	- 0.15	6.86
Monthly Inc	44.42	47.51†	- 0.26	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	377.29	396.04	- 0.29	0.17
American Strat	188.38	198.77	+ 0.69	
JG US Index	#39.609	#31.195	+ 0.11	4.50
European Gen	449.44	474.16	- 2.50	
European Strat	219.95	235.08	+ 0.20	...
Japan Gen	105.44	112.29	- 2.65	
Asia Pacific	61.26	65.43	+ 0.11	1.09
Pacific Strat	84.43	90.29†	- 0.72	...
Greater China	142.03	151.90	- 0.88	
Latin America	56.29	60.12	+ 0.09	
Int Growth	200.80	214.75	+ 0.26	0.11
Balanced Exempt	181.51	188.09		2.18
Global Strategy	48.32	51.67	+ 1.07	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.53	88.86	+ 0.65	1.71
Balanced Inc	75.05	79.84	+ 0.60	1.71
Brit Excell	131.70	140.10	+ 1.30	2.27
Brit Fndmtls Acc	167.40	178.10	+ 1.70	3.99
Brit Fndmtls Inc	103.80	110.40	+ 1.00	3.99

Muted response to rate cut

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	395	Allied Domecq†	478½	- 8½	5.3	12.5
412½	283	Bulmer (HP)†	284	...	6.6	12.7
42½	7	Burn Stewart	14	...	...	...
795	492	Diageo	648	- 3½	3.1	19.6
900	635	Glenmorangie A	635	- 10	2.8	17.2
325	225	Highland Distl	253½	...	4.6	11.6
244	115	Matthew Clark	242	...	6.7	8.2
58½	18½	Mayvin W	28	...	...	...
2021½	725	SA Breweries†	1006½	+ 6½	3.6	15.2

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1618½	893½	ABN-AMRO	1265½	- 12½	3.1	15.3
1390	880	Abbey Ntl	1217	- 2	3.3	18.0
1032	585	Alliance & Leic	775	- 1	3.6	14.6
1262½	587½	Allied Irish	1202½	...	1.6	33.5
458½	293½	Aus New Z	414½	- 6½	4.9	...
6075	3237½	Bank America	3784½	- 46½	...	...
852	431	Bank Scotland	847	+ 11	1.5	21.2
1996	827	Barclays	1456	+ 4	3.3	13.4
1487½	882½	Bk of Ireland	1439½	...	2.0	23.6
2484½	1565½	Commerzbk	1750	- 37½	3.1	...
549½	218½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	362½	- 3½	1.3	...
5369½	3218½	Deutsche Bk	3328½	+ 6½	2.4	[illegible]

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

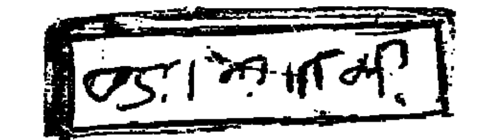
SHORTS (under 5 years)

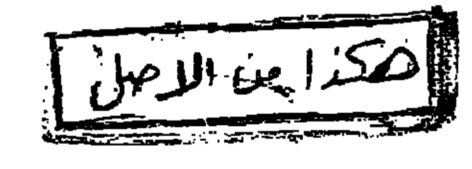
LONGS (over 15 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

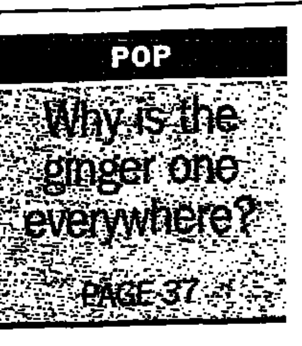






MUSIC
Colin Davis stirs up the LSO's passions
PAGE 36

THE TIMES
ARTS



POP
Why is the ginger one everywhere?
PAGE 37



The Bard in fine rare form

THEATRE

The Rape of Lucrece
Union

Tucked away at the back of the family Shakespeare, where most of us never venture, there is this long poem about a famous rape. It was a rape that led to the overthrow of the early kings of Rome, and it is better known than Shakespeare's poem, which only scores five entries in my *Dictionary of Quotations*.

The 265 verses, each of seven lines, include passages of dialogue but much that is narrative, describing Lucrece's devotion to her husband Collatinus, and the passions seething this way and that in young Tarquin as his better impulses strive "to quench the coal which in his liver glows". This is not obviously stageable material and yet Theresa Shiban's production for Angelus Arts becomes 80 minutes of thrilling drama, incorporating speech for individuals and chorus, movement both stately and frenzied, and music of such excitement that the *hairs on the back of one's neck* stand up and wave.

In the square, plainly functional space of this theatre, in an area once part of Elizabethan Bankside between Blackfriars and Southwark Bridges, Shiban places the core of the action between two blocks of seating. But frequently the actors stride behind our seats: they use the double doors into some unseen corridor to represent the last of the portals protecting the sleeping Lucrece: and as Tarquin's lust looks certain to overwhelm his judgment her women spring up on to two of the supporting beams and cry out their verse from above.

The verse form Shakespeare uses here is known as rhyme royal and goes a-b-a-b-b-c-c. The way the rhymes sometimes follow immediately and sometimes skip a line brings a lively variety, whereas columns of rhymed couplets (thank you, Jean Racine) in England take us galumphing towards Pantoland.

The company of seven actors begin with sequences of dumbshow that develop into dances somewhat gavotte-like. David Hollett is soon identified by his red mantle as Prince Tarquin, while the other men wear uniforms unadorned. His bearing is strong, easily adopting postures that are literally statuesque when standing with mantle flung over an outstretched arm. Like the rest of the company he speaks the unfamiliar verse with clarity and an evident understanding — an achievement sometimes missed by our national companies.

Doubts and desires rage across his features, when he speaks and when he listens, and this same attention to what others are saying is present in Andrew Michell's Collatine (Shapespeare's spelling) and *the Lucrece powerfully created by* Lucy Campbell.

Shabin's movement takes us into the hearts of her characters in such scenes as Tarquin's self-disgust, when ten hands claw at his skin, *and Lucrece's stripping* of the embroidered trappings from her soiled bed. The physical expresses the psychological.

Sophie Jump's designs, bright details glowing against the sombre, are admirably judged, and the music provided by Alicia Davies and Helen Leaf on such instruments as the bucarabu, krakch and waterphone is sensational.

JEREMY KINGSTON



MARILYN KINGWILL

Lucy Campbell (Lucrece) prepares for a fate worse than death from David Hollett (Prince Tarquin)

Too much creaking when they ought to be haunting

Blithe Spirit
Salisbury Playhouse

Helping to ring up the curtain on this centenary year of Noël Coward's birth with one of many forthcoming tributes, this production is enjoyable enough, but hardly sets a benchmark for the rest.

Written in five days in 1941, *Blithe Spirit* gleefully wheels out psychics, ghosts and a barrage of paranormal paraphernalia, all in the service of a disconcertingly flippant invitation to laugh in the face of death. Summoned at a seance, author Charles Condomine's wayward (though very dead) first wife Elvira has far too riotous a time haunting him to go back whence she came. Charles rather enjoys having her around too, for a while, after he gets over the shock. But his present wife, Ruth, is having none of it, and the tussle between the two women comes to a deadly end. In Coward's light-fingered hand, though, hardly a tragic one: before you know it, the two have struck up a spirited alliance against their hapless hubby.

It's all fun and games, this death thing — much more than boring old life. Of course the delicious superficiality is the point, and director Gareth Armstrong doesn't quite get it. At the end Charles has the air of a genuinely haunted man, as if Coward were trying to make a point about our need to treat people properly lest they wreak their revenge from the beyond — a beyond, as it happens, in which he had absolutely no belief. Come on: it's all just supposed to be silly — at the most, maybe, to make light of death in one of the darkest periods of the war.

It's always tempting — unfairly so — to compare actors in these clearly Coward-like parts to the man himself. Be that as it may, Robin Kermode as Charles just doesn't have the indolent, arrogant charm, the twinkle in the eye, that the role demands. He barks out his lines — and with Coward, never such a master of the witty epigram as, say, Wilde, it's all in the delivery. Better are Celia Nelson, playing a straight bat as Ruth, and Mairead Carty as a nicely sluttish Elvira.

Fenella Fielding whoops it up like a batty Sybil Fawlty as Madame Arcati, the gloriously eccentric medium, revelling in the hocus-pocus and histrionics. But on this night she spoilt things by fluffing an alarming number of lines. The spooky lighting, costumes and set design are faultless, but too much else is a touch creaky.

NIGEL CLIFF

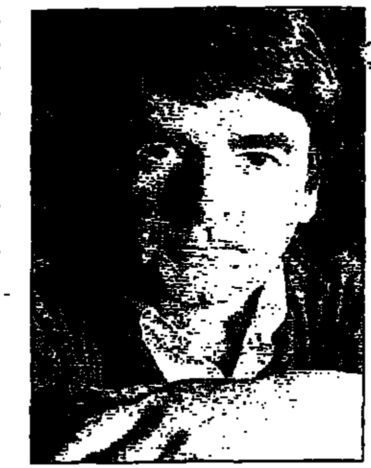
An adolescent in Arabia

For the final day of our Penguin CD offer, **David Lodge** recalls how his musician father opened his ears to Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*

Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* suite was, I believe, the first piece of classical music that I listened to with real pleasure and excitement from beginning to end. I was introduced to it at the age of 16 or 17 by my father (who, as I write this, is approaching his 92nd birthday). He was by profession a dance musician. He was largely self-taught, a natural violinist who had taken up the saxophone and clarinet because there was more work to be had with those instruments in the Jazz Age, when he was a young man. He was also a singer.

With this background I grew up with a taste for popular music, swing and, in due course, modern jazz. But when, in his forties, and my teens, my father began to explore classical music as a listener, mainly with the aid of gramophone records borrowed from our local public library (for we were not well off and LPs were scarce and expensive), I found it more difficult to share his enthusiasm. I had never learnt a musical instrument myself (something I later came to regret) and knew nothing of the history of music: this no doubt made me initially unreceptive to the late Romantic and early modern composers my father favoured: Debussy, Ravel, Elgar, Rachmaninov, Delius, Sibelius. In due course I learnt to delight in all of them, but it was Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade which first convinced me* that classical music could be as exciting and enjoyable as, say, the arrangements of Stan Kenton or the Modern Jazz Quartet.

It is not difficult to see, in retrospect, why this piece had such a powerful effect on an adolescent with a good, if untrained, ear for music and literary interests and aspirations. It is instantly accessible to anyone who has any musical feeling at all, full of haunting tunes, foot-tapping rhythms, lush orchestral textures and thrilling instrumental solos. It is highly emotive music, evoking a variety of moods — excitement, fear, tenderness, longing — in quick succession. And it is about something, about love and adventure, as novels and plays are.



Scheherazade is like wonderful film music, says David Lodge

In fact I have never sat down with the text of the *Arabian Nights* and tried to match the four movements of the suite precisely to the stories that inspired it — and it is not necessary to do so in order to feel the dramatic power of the music or to summon up appropriate images as one listens. *Scheherazade* is like wonderful film music for a movie that was never actually made, leaving each listener free to project it in his or her own head.

What makes the suite so appealing to comparatively unsophisticated listeners is Rimsky-Korsakov's application of a symphonic compositional method to musical material that has its roots in folk culture, both Russian and Oriental. Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances* are often *paired with Scheherezade* in recordings because they derive even more directly from the same kind of source. In the 1950s modern pop music paid homage of a kind to Borodin by borrowing one of the most lilting melodies in the dances for the hit ballad, *Stranger in Paradise*, which my father used to sing at the nightclub where he then worked, and snatches of which he would sing at home when he was in a good mood — another reason why I associate this CD with him.

HOW TO ORDER

- *Times readers can save £1 on ten Penguin CD titles, which are available for £6.99 each instead of £7.99, inc. postage and packing.*
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Read my lips and save our libraries

The curse of the lottery strikes again. You didn't know there was such a curse? My dears, let me be less economical with the *actualité*. The curse of the lottery is rather like that other great media amusement, the curse of *Hello!*, which appears to guarantee that rich and beautiful celebrities no sooner parade their health, wealth and generally mint-condition karma on the pages of that distinguished journal than they lose their lovers, fortunes, homes, hair and marbles — not necessarily in that order.

Well, the curse of the lottery is much the same, only duller. It works like this. A cultural institution is awarded a lottery grant equivalent to the gross domestic product of Portugal, or at least the callout charge for a North London plumber. A recipe for bliss? Not bloomin' likely. Within weeks its management will be in disarray, finances wrecked, employees revolting, punters outraged, reputation shredded. I don't need to cite examples. You know what they are, and if there is one thing worse than intruding on private grief it is gloating over national humiliation.

But one should warn when it is about to happen again — and it is. Only this time the curse of the lottery has blighted not some preposterously over-ambitious theatre, but the humblest and oldest servants of British mass culture: our local libraries.

I hesitate even to mention them. If 22 years in journalism have taught me anything, it is that little repels readers quicker than a worthy article about libraries. Ironic or what? But mention them I must, because they are in peril. The lottery curse has struck.

Last year the Government decided to allocate £70 million of lottery money to a scheme called "New Library: the People's Network". Yes, it's a ghastly Blairite touchy-feely cliché of a title, but the scheme itself is unobjectionable. By 2002 it will link all 4,000 public libraries to the Internet, and (it is hoped) go as far towards bridging the gap between the "information rich" and the "information poor" with new technology as the Victorian lending libraries did with those old-fashioned things called books.

The only problem is: will there be any libraries left by 2002? This month local councils finalised budgets for next year, and horrible details emerged of cuts in the cultural area. Westminster City Council, for instance — not exactly a body battered by intractable social problems — has just slashed its grants to arts organisations by a startling 28 per cent, and blamed "asylum seekers" for forcing its hand. Since its patch includes English National Opera, the Serpentine Gallery, the Wigmore Hall and several other internationally renowned arts organisations, the consequences for the capital's cultural life are grim.



RICHARD MORRISON

But libraries have always been the most favoured soft target for overstretched councils, and here the proposed cuts add up to an appalling assault on literature and literacy. Barnsley is proposing to close 22 branch libraries; Surrey 16. At least 15 London boroughs will close libraries this year. Round the country the story is the same. And don't forget that 500 libraries have already closed since 1990.

If libraries aren't closed, their hours are curtailed. Britain may now be a 24-hour society, but libraries seem ever more inaccessible to working people whose spare time falls in the evenings or at weekends. Little wonder that book borrowing is down — by 22 per cent in five years in Glasgow, for instance. Funds for purchasing books are also being slashed; a report this month found that book stocks in city libraries had declined by 28 per cent since 1993.

What makes this woeful tale rather odd is that we are supposed to be engaged in a big national push to get kids and adults reading. This is allegedly "National Year of Reading". Literacy hour has been instituted in schools. Supermarkets and factories are co-operating in book-lending schemes for shoppers and workers. Newspapers, including *The Times*, are backing a plan to put more books into schools. *The Word*, billed as "London's first festival of language and literature", assembles a dazzling array of scribes and scribblers next month.

But what good is icing when the cake is rotting? The curse of the lottery is that people get distracted by the megabucks available for the *grand projet* — in this case the "People's Network" — and neglect the boring but vital task of keeping their institution in day-to-day good health. In the case of the local library, we are talking not only about a place that lends books, records and tapes, but about one of the nubs of community life: a meeting-place, a civic noticeboard, a haven where kids from cramped and noisy homes can study in peace.

Going to the library is still the fifth most popular pastime in Britain. (The bad news is that the fourth most popular is "eating at a fast-food restaurant".) Abolish your local library, in other words, and you tear a gaping hole in that delicate cobweb called society.

At least the alarm has been sounded, albeit in sleepy fashion. Last Tuesday evening, while most people were transfixed by the England football manager and them things wot he said, a handful of MPs took part in an adjournment debate about library closures. It was useful to the extent that the Arts Minister, Alan Howarth, felt compelled to state that the Government "sees no justification whatever for cutting library services in the present financial climate".

Since his department is responsible for ensuring that local authorities fulfil their legal duty to provide "comprehensive and efficient" library services, these were encouraging words. Deeds must swiftly follow. Otherwise the curse of the lottery will rot our tree of knowledge at its very roots.

Music under our skin

Why is the London Philharmonic Orchestra planning to play at Caribbean parties in South London? Nigel Williamson reports

Stravinsky played back to back with polyphonic music from the African equatorial rainforest. A liturgical mass in Latin embellished with improvised Sufi meditations. Orchestra members dispatched into the urban sprawl of South London to play at Asian weddings and Caribbean birthday parties.

In the three years since he took over as chief executive and artistic director of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Serge Dorny has created something approaching a cultural revolution on the South Bank. "I felt it was important for us to develop roots in the local community. They weren't aware of us and we weren't aware of them," he says.

It is this thinking which has led Dorny to launch *New Rituals/Old Rituals*, a six-month programme in which his orchestra will spend much of its time at large in the community. A series of workshops will see LPO members interacting with groups from different cultural backgrounds in the surrounding boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham and Brixton. Together they will compose and create original music which will be performed in *Celebrating the Journey*, a multi-media happening at Southwark Cathedral in July.

"We need to have a feedback from the community and to feed into it. We want to participate in its ceremonies so that, for example, if a Caribbean grandmother is celebrating her 75th birthday we can help to create some music that connects with that event. And in July, when all these different cultures are sharing the platform with the LPO, I hope it will generate a real synergy within the community."

The project, which Dorny has instituted as an annual event and placed at the core of the LPO's activity, kicks off this weekend at the Festival Hall with an illustrative day of *Roots-Classical Fusions*. After an afternoon of workshops featuring music from the Caribbean, Ireland, India, Japan, Argentina and Turkey, an evening concert will feature one of the most extraordinarily diverse programmes ever put together by a major British symphony orchestra — *The Rite of Spring* and Copland's *Appalachian Spring* intermingled with bobongo music from Zaire, and Machaut's *Messe de Notre Dame* accompanied by the haunting sounds of the Turkish *ney*, an ancient flute used for a thousand years by the whirling dervishes of Mevlevi Sufism.

Common ground with Stravinsky: women of the Polyphony Ekonda group from Zaire, who will be performing at the Festival Hall tomorrow as part of the Roots-Classical Fusions day

"We want to bring in new audiences to experience music from different cultures and roots," says Dorny. "The stimulations of European and non-European music can be very similar. They often serve the same purpose. We are world citizens but that isn't reflected in our culture."

Which is why Dorny chose ritual music as this year's theme. "You can see the notion of ritual translated in world music and classical music using the same tools — primitive rhythm, a certain kind of harmonics, repetitive figures, the climaxes, the cumulative patterns. Stravinsky and Copland did it and the Bantu people utilise the same tools for a similar purpose. Unless you juxtapose them you are not aware of it. There is a vast common grammar in ritual, both pagan and religious, and in the collectivity of the experience."

Perhaps the most intriguing fusion of all will be the interfaith adventure of Machaut's 14th-century Christian mass embroidered by Islamic devotional music. David James of the Hilliard Ensemble, who will sing the mass, says: "Serge approached us when he first took over the LPO. He arrived with this vision to push back the barriers of music, which is exactly how we feel. We all assume classical music is the ultimate but when you get beyond Western Europe there is a whole other musical world full of ideas."

The Hilliard recently recorded a Swiss television show in which they were asked to improvise with singers from Mongolia and Azerbaijan. "It was fascinating how quickly it came together. Even though they had different harmonic scales we had so much in common. At the end of the evening it didn't seem strange at all."

Dorny concedes that it will be a confrontation of cultures but one that he hopes will be entirely positive. "Sufi music not only shares a time period with medieval masses but has similar structures, even though the traditions are different. These are introductions which hopefully we can take further. It can be a greenhouse for new works, new genres, new music, new experiences."

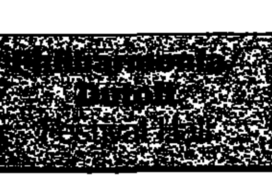
Has the Western classical tradition in the past been too resistant to other musical cultures? "I think so. And the audiences, too. But it is more because they haven't been introduced to it. What I found when we first did this in Belgium was that the Western performers who were working with musicians from other cultures for the first time said they had learnt more than they ever did in the conservatoire.

"The world music pioneers like Womad are having an effect in regular concert halls although it might take another 10 or 20 years. Mozart and Brahms assimilated the music of different cultures. Now we have access to so much more, why can't we do the same?"

● Roots-Classical Fusions *featuring the LPO conducted by Kent Nagano takes place at the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) tomorrow*

CONCERTS: French pleasures, a curious Scottish experience and a London homecoming

Surfeit of sweetmeat



Two tasty morsels by the 100th birthday boy, Poulenc, one slab of Milhaud, one pearl by Ravel: this was a death by chocolate concert. Most of this French music was meant for dancing, but the only one pirouetting on the platform was the conductor Charles Dutoit. At times the expressiveness of his dainty footwork, flexed shoulders and imploring arms outshone anything emerging from the Philharmonia. That was certainly the case during *Le Boeuf sur le toit*, Milhaud's pot-pourri of South American rhythms. But what can players do with little tunes sullied by smudged textures, or a structure barely held together by sticky tape?

Wisely, they moved on to something better: Poulenc's D minor two-piano concerto of 1932, one of his most ingratiating pieces, fusing Stravinsky, Mozart, Balinese echoes and popular song. Here Dutoit had competition from soloists Katia and Marielle Labèque, who always offer a good vaudeville turn. Notes were stabbed at, bodies flung back. Their fortissimo hammerings sometimes did Poulenc no favours, but whenever the music turned still and tender they were there waiting, minutely delicate in the gamelan sounds at the first movement's close, child-like and loving in the second's mock Mozart.

After the interval we gathered for another chocolate feast, the five-movement suite from *Les Biches*, Poulenc's ballet written for Diaghilev. The orchestration may lack the concerto's finesse, but Dutoit made the most of the toytown tunes, honking brass, and gooey harmonies. It was all delightfully insouciant.

What a relief, nonetheless, when Ravel's second suite from his own Diaghilev ballet, *Daphnis et Chloé*, a genuine masterwork, closed the concert. Woodwinds burbled over the stream, bird violins woke into song, and the sun rose majestically in the brass. As soon as this *Daybreak* movement began, it was clear this was the piece the Philharmonia had been waiting for. Earlier, their playing had been two degrees under. Now they did much more than play the notes: they cradled them, polished them, especially Kenneth Smith's solo flute. But enough French chocolates, please. I am now on a diet.

GEOFF BROWN

Factory fun



Cathedrals in Sound is what the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra calls its Bruckner series in Greyfriars Kirk. Actually, it's more like visiting a factory where Bruckner symphonies are manufactured, where slabs of brass are winched on rumbling cables and welded together, great beams of wood hammered into position, masses of wires woven into crackling high-voltage circuits. It's noisy but also, in the middle of it all, exhilarating.

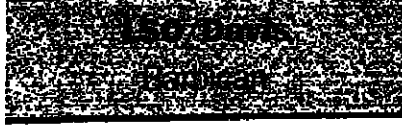
Greyfriars is not the biggest of Edinburgh's churches. With the orchestra occupying roughly half the floor space and leaving room for fewer than 400 people it is clearly no answer to the problems of the RSNO, but for a broadcasting orchestra it has interesting possibilities. Although Bruckner is obviously pushing at the extremes of an acoustic that might have been designed for Bach, there is little music that would not benefit from the clear atmosphere of Greyfriars Kirk.

Sitting on the factory floor with the Sixth Symphony was an overwhelmingly direct Bruckner experience. Why it is that variations in pace seem all the more significant in close-up is difficult to say. But the interchanges between the two main tempi of the first movement — which Takuo Yuasa made as different as he reasonably could while making no special effort to ease the transitions — were awesomely perilous and all the more effective for that. In compensation, unfortunately, the reiterations of the three-note proclamation on the heavy brass at the end of the last movement seemed grotesquely over-insistent and too ponderous by far.

At the same time, however, there was no trace of scepticism in the playing of the orchestra, which seemed to be as deeply committed as it was well prepared, and no failure in confidence in the conducting. Yuasa had his strategy and he was sticking to it, with the least fruitful results in a not very spontaneous slow movement but with dynamic effect in the Scherzo and a massive accumulation of both acoustic and structural capital in the end.

GERALD LARNER

Return of the natives



A television documentary is currently bringing home the strains and stresses of orchestral tours. But playing to enthusiastic audiences in foreign cities can also help to recharge the batteries, and there was certainly no sign of fatigue in the performance of the London Symphony Orchestra under Colin Davis, just back from their residency in New York.

The music they took with them included large-scale Elgar, as heard in magnificent performances in London before Christmas. Elgar may be relatively unfamiliar territory Stateside, but by all accounts rapturous audiences had less difficulty with it than the New York critics. Back home, the orchestra and Davis turned to smaller-scale Elgar on Wednesday night, with the Serenade for Strings. It was delivered in unsentimental fashion, simple and strong and all the better for it.

For Bartók's Violin Concerto No 2 the orchestra was joined by Sarah Chang, the youthful prodigy now all of 17. Chang lost no time in making her mark, with a full-blooded, folk-inflected opening paragraph. Thereafter outbursts of furious velocity alternated with oases of calm reflection, the soloist equally responsive to both. The sharp wit, vibrant colour and riotous abandon of the finale make for a volatile mix, but drawing on reserves of rich tone, vibrato and solid technique, Chang carried all before her. It was an impressive performance and a continually engaging one, thanks to the empathetic interaction of soloist, orchestra and conductor.

As though to prove that touring had taken no toll, the players delivered a high-voltage and superbly executed account of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. The symphony was famously described, by Wagner, as "the apotheosis of the dance", but the driving rhythms and fierce propulsion of this performance emphasised raw energy rather than choreographic grace. There was suavity too in the Allegretto, and a welcome touch of buoyancy in the Scherzo. But with Davis sculpting vast edifices in the air as the accumulated power of the finale was exhilaratingly released, there was no mistaking the air of triumphalism.

BARRY MILLINGTON

■ LISTINGS
A Scottish Rosenkavalier

ARTS

■ POP OPINION
The trouble with Evans

RECOMMENDED THIS WEEKEND

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

COPENHAGEN Set in wartime Denmark where Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr, Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. **Duchess** (0171-494 5075). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm.

ROOTS: A day-long event at the Festival Hall tomorrow offers a blend of music from the European classical tradition and other cultures. The day culminates in a concert (6pm) where the London Philharmonic under Kent Nagano is joined by the Hilliard Ensemble and the Central African Vocal Group in a programme of drumming and song from the African Equatorial Rainforest followed by works by Copland, Stravinsky and Machaut. (See preview, p 35) On Sunday (3pm), the pianist Daniel Barenboim plays Beethoven and Debussy. **Festival Hall** (0171-960 4242) ▣

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture* and his *Fourth Piano Concerto* are coupled to Elgar's *Enigma Variations* in this concert conducted by Sir Colin Davis. Emanuel Ax is the piano soloist. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). Sunday, 7.30pm ▣

CELAINE: Repertory season of five plays opens with Matt Parker's, about a girl who refuses to leave her room. **Hampstead Theatre** (0171-722 9301). Opens tonight, 7pm ▣

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Sakari Oramo gets to grips with the epic *Kullervo Symphony* in this concert by the **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**. Sibelius's early work is preceded by Brahms's *Song of Destiny*, a setting of a poem by Hölderlin. **Symphony Hall** (0121-212 3333). Tomorrow, 7pm. ▣

CAMBRIDGE: Four emotionally deprived women in St Louis feature in **A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur**: a very late Tennessee Williams play with a role for a deaf actress. Touring production by Graeae Theatre Co. **Drama Centre** (012233 22748). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm

GLASGOW. **Scottish Opera**'s spring season opens with a new production by David McVicar of Richard Strauss's seductive tale *Der Rosenkavalier*. With Joan Rodgers, Stella Doufexis and Lisa Milne heading the cast. Richard Armstrong conducts. **Theatre Royal** (0141-332 9000). Opens tomorrow, 6.30pm. ▣

OXFORD: Eleanor Bron and Peter Hanly star in **Making Noise Quietly**, Robert Holman's trilogy of short plays, each to do with strange encounters overshadowed by war. Deborah Bruce directs a touring production for Oxford Stage Company. **Playhouse Theatre** (01865 798600). Previews tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. ▣

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◪ **OKLAHOMA!**: National Theatre cast includes Maureen Lipman in transfer of Trevor Nunn's Rodgers and Hammerstein. **Lyceum** (0171-416 6098).

◪ **RICHARD III**: Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for Elijah Moshinsky's RSC production from Stratford. **Savoy** (0171-836 8888) ▣

□ **BRIEF CANDLE**: Denis Quilley plays various European celebrities who fell for the charms of young Marie Bashkirtseff (Celia White) in the 1880s and figured in her posthumously published diaries. Stella Quilley directs. **New End** (0171-794 0022). ▣

□ **YOU'LL HAVE HAD YOUR HOLE**: Irvine Welsh play, obsessed with anal rape, drugs and torture, nauseated most critics and many others at its Leeds premiere. **Astoria** (0171-434 0403)

□ **IT'S JACKIE**. Welcome return of Jackie Clune and her kitsch homage to the songs of Dusty, Cilla, Sandie and Dionne. **Drill Hall** (0171-637 8270).

□ **FOURPLAY**: Post-modern bedroom farce by Spanish dramatist Sergi Belbel. Hans-Peter Kellner directs for Mammoth productions. **Lyric Studio** (0181-741 8701). ▣

◪ **THE STREET OF CROCODILES**: Welcome return for Theatre de Complicite's inventive staging of Bruno Schulz's magical recollections of pre-Nazi Poland. **Queens** (0171-494 5041).

□ **VASSA**. Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast, playing the family matriarch in Gorky's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. **Albery** (0171-369 1730).

◪ **THE TEMPEST**: David Calder excellent in Adrian Noble's colourful RSC production from Stratford. **Barbican** (0171-638 8891). ▣

□ **SPERM WARS**: David Lewis's excellent first play about the anxieties of reproduction returns for two weeks. **Orange Tree** (0181-940 3633). ▣

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Sumptuously shot film by Gillies MacKinnon that is surprisingly unjudgemental and moving. With Said Taghmaoui, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan.

LIVING OUT LOUD (15): Fitful romance with Holly Hunter and Danny DeVito as an odd couple who meet in the elevator. Loneliness brings them together, fantasies keep them apart. Cracking performances fail to unlock the stalemate. Director Richard LaGravenese.

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15): Successful career woman Angela Bassett falls for a hunky Jamaican toy boy (Taye Diggs), half her age. Despite the chemistry there is nothing to this overlong holiday brochure from director Kevin Rodney Sullivan.

A BUG'S LIFE (U): A colony of cute hard-working ants is terrorised by a delinquent gang of grasshoppers. Dazzling, bug-eyed perspectives from Disney and Pixar make this a comic feast for kids. John (*Toy Story*) Lasseter directs.

PECKER (15): John Waters's frothy satire on the art world lacks his usual bite but there are enough bad-taste moments to keep the humour bubbling. With Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci.

CURRENT

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse. John Madden directs.

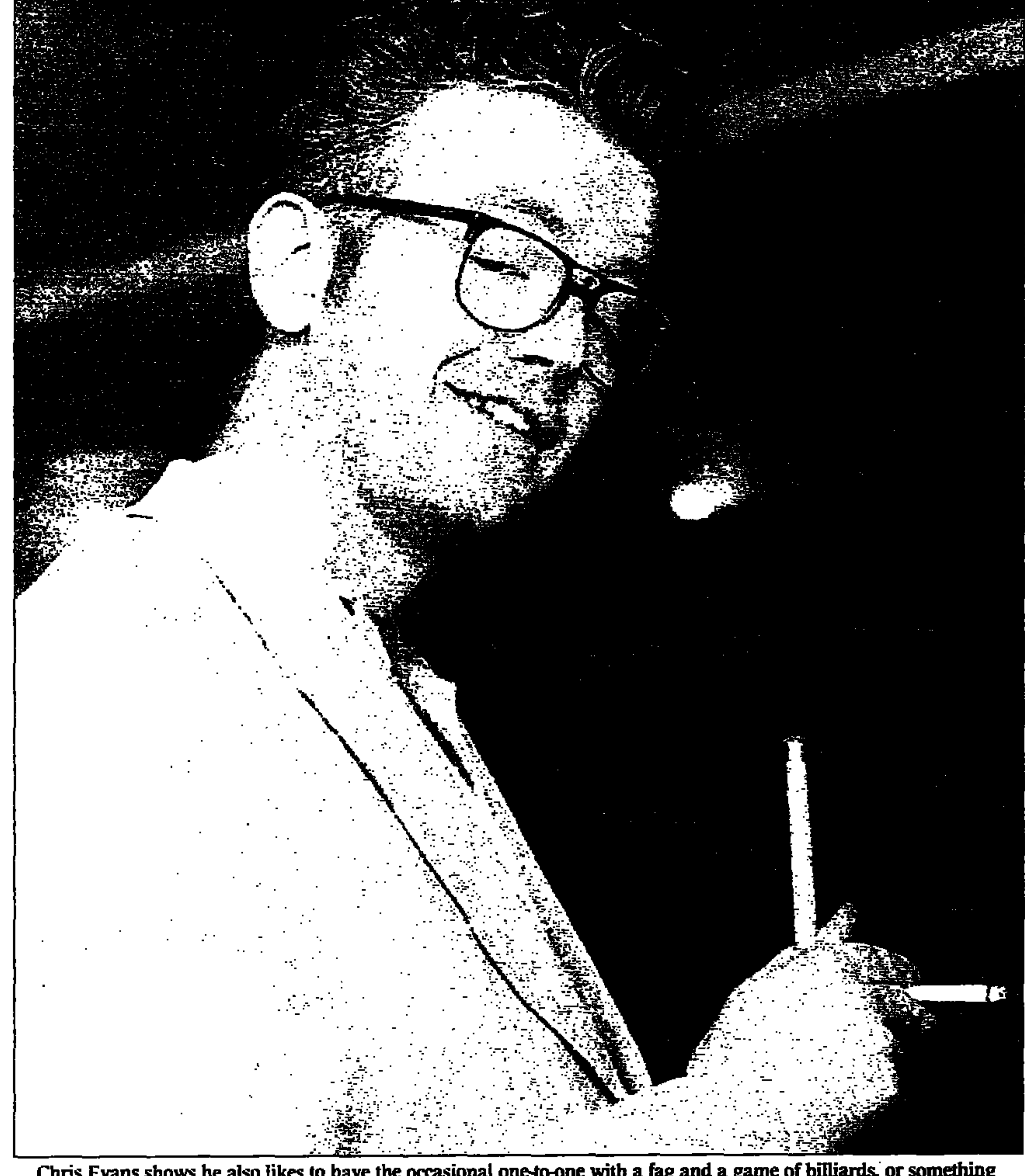
VERY BAD THINGS (18): Peter Berg's macabre comedy thriller satirises buddy movies and smug suburban lifestyles by chopping up half the cast. Demonic performances from Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz.

HILARY AND JACKIE (15): Anand Tucker's controversial biopic about the late Jacqueline du Pré. With Emily Watson and Rachel Griffiths.

BULWORTH (18). Warren Beatty's disillusioned senator discovers a taste for telling ugly home truths. A shameless ego trip for Beatty, but a wonderful new comic spin on political manipulation and mendacity. Beatty produces, stars and directs.

More popular than Chris?

John Lennon probably doesn't know it, but he and Chris Evans have quite a lot in common. Not



DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH

Chris Evans shows he also likes to have the occasional one-to-one with a fag and a game of billiards, or something

Of course, one must be *careful* about saying these kinds of things — there are mentally unstable people out there who are capable of acting on a journalist's flippant whimsy. But then, we're *in a no-lose situation here, so*: Chris Evans must be silenced.

There doesn't need to be any immediate reason to call for his departure from the nation's consciousness — it's something that can be prayed *for daily, along with bread* and forgiveness of trespasses — but obviously, there are peaks and troughs in any cycle of annoyance, and things have peaked with Evans's bullish appropriation of John Lennon *in those appalling one 2 one* mobile phone advertisements.

It's surprising the ad still had the power to wound: our souls had already been coarsened by an earlier series, in which Kate Moss pretended *she'd* most like a one 2 one with Elvis Presley. That ad was an Olympic-level study in ennui — Moss's disengagement was so intense that one wondered *whether she* knew who Elvis was at all. I can't think of two people more ill-suited to meeting and chatting. Had Elvis really met Kate Moss, he would have mistaken her for a Twiglet, dunked her *head-first* into a tub of peanut butter and tiramisu, and eaten her.

CAITLIN MORAN

So it's no mean achievement for Evans to make an ad even more ulcer-forming. And yet, by metaphorically climbing, uninvited, into Lennon's coffin shouting "All right, mate!", he proves that he fundamentally *misjudges his "hero". Lennon* is cool because he was exactly the kind of person who would have loathed Chris Evans. But because Lennon is dead and defenceless, Evans is able to pop up in bed with John and Yoko *and wander around Pep*perland.

Alas, the ads don't show Evans hanging with Lennon during the one, short-lived era the two might actually have bonded. When John Lennon embarked on his infamously dumb-monkey Lost Weekend, he spent his time getting stu*pidly drunk with other* celebrities and, at his "crazy" peak, spent an entire evening in a nightclub with a sanitary towel stuck to his forehead. I can see Evans and Lennon bonding infamously during that *particular epoch*.

If one genuinely thought Evans's biggest hero was John Lennon, then sure, those ads would still grate more gratingly than watching a great big grate being grated, but it *wouldn't make you want to hit* Evans on the head with a poisoned rake. But just look at him. Everything about him, from his Obvious Wealth sports car to his skintight jeans to his sub-Timmy Mallet wackiness, *suggests that here* is a man for whom the 1980s were a cultural high-point. I should imagine that if you could, rather pleasurably, herd Evans into Room 101 and strap the *rats* on, he'd admit *that the music that can make* him weep like a baby isn't *Dear Prudence* and *Tomorrow Never Knows*, but rather Van Halen, Nik Kershaw and the early works of Cutting Crew. His teenage pin-up was Kim Wilde, and he seemed suspiciously happy to buy the MOR radio station Virgin FM, when for a fraction of the price he could have *bought the struggling indie/al*ternative station XFM and helped Britain create a brighter tomorrow.

When someone becomes as un-nor*mal and iconic* as John Lennon, the facets of him that people relate to reveal everything you need to know about them. So which is the facet of Lennon — a man who half-heartedly toyed with revolution before retiring to bake bread — that Evans relates to?

"*If I could have a one-to-one* with John Lennon, I'd ask him how he felt at being thought of as arrogant, when inside he was as sensitive as the rest of us." Ah-ha! Evans sees Lennon as *misunderstood*. Evans — *one of the most famous men* in Britain, with his own weekly TV show about Chris Evans, a daily radio show about Chris Evans and indeed an entire radio station devoted to promoting the Chris Evans Way — thinks that one of the most famous men of the 20th century, who has been ana*lysed in the minutest detail*, is misunderstood. Just like Chris.

So, since Evans has just spent the last month speaking for Lennon (and presumed that what Lennon would say, if he could rise from the dead for one day, would be: "That Chris Evans is a great guy! And I just dig Mercury's new *one 2 one system!*"). *I feel it's* only fair that I take my turn working as a conduit for the BeatleChrist. It goes like this: Chris Evans, the last time I had a one-to-one with John Lennon, he said: "Just because we dislike you doesn't mean we don't understand you, Chris. It's never been a ques*tion of not understanding you*, you charmless, over-exposed philistine. It's because we get you entirely, right down to the last act of your waxy, pea-sized heart, that we loathe you."

Roots in full flower

LIVE GIG
Olu Dara
Jazz Café

HE HAS certainly bided his time, has Olu Dara. In a career spanning 35 years he has played trumpet in Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and sessioned on more than 40 albums for artists as diverse as Brian Eno and Cassandra Wilson without ever becoming the main attraction.

Now Dara, 57, is making up for lost time. His belated solo debut, *In The World: From Natchez to New York*, joins up the dots of the African-American experience, from Delta blues and New Orleans jazz through to Caribbean rhythms and ancestral roots.

The melting pot of styles reflects Dara's own travels. *Born in Mississippi* he moved to Harlem, but not before he had spent five years in the American Navy, which took him to both Africa and the Caribbean, where he eagerly soaked up the music of both cultures.

On his first ever British date with his four piece Natchezsippi Dance Band, he displayed the unhurried grace and poise that only come with long experience. On the languorous *Harlem Country Girl* his voice recalled the slow burn of Terry Callier. Then he shifted gear into a passionate slice of vintage R&B that sounded like a cross between John Lee *Hooker and Johnny "Guitar"* Watson. *On Your Lips* saw him moving seamlessly from a rolling Trinidadian soca rhythm to a pumping beat that had its roots in the Nigerian juju of King Sunny Ade. Then he was off again on a new tune that sounded like the New Orleans funk of the Meters plonked down in the middle of a bustling African marketplace.

Extemporising his vocals in the style of Van Morrison, he also switched effortlessly between guitar and trumpet. At one point he strolled casually through the crowd, still blowing his horn, before finishing with *Zora*, a gospel-tinged tribute to the black *American writer Zora* Neale Hurston. It is hard to think of anyone, even Taj Mahal, who occupies quite such a broad canvas of black musical styles. Olu Dara has been a long time coming. But *it appears to have been more* than worth the wait.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

■ POP PROFILE
Upwardly mobile Cleo

ARTS

■ NEW POP ALBUMS
Chuck comes up for air

Like it or not, they're comin' atcha

Forget Queen of the Nile. At the rate they're going, Cleopatra are set to rule the world. **Paul Sexton** reports

Cleo Higgins hears a knock on the hotel room door. Cleopatra's lead singer and songwriter is getting restless for her creature comforts, and somebody is going to know about it. "Please tell me that's my ice cream," she says, politely. As a display of pampered showbusiness temperament, this is hardly a scene from *All About Eve*.

The first year of fame for Higgins, 16, and her two sisters Zainam, 18, and Yonah, 14, might have been enough to turn even wise old heads, never mind those of the three ingenue talents in an archetypal rags to riches tale. But in the week that they add their own children's television series to their inventory of achievements, they are showing an almost stateswomanlike calm about their upward mobility. Oh, and also talking about boys and giggling a lot.

The girls have found a space in their multi-media promotional schedule to be startlingly normal, well-adjusted, vivacious teenagers. They are more likely to twitter about who they fancy and what tunes they love than to harp on about their three consecutive Top Five hits, their Best British Newcomer nomination at the forthcoming Brits, opening for the Spice Girls on the latter's British stadium tour or getting faxes from Madonna, no less.

But the perfect demonstration of how a bankable commodity can be put in front of every potential young fan comes this very afternoon. With channel-hopping dexterity, the trio will leap straight from episode one of ITV's *Comin' Atcha*, their seven-part comedy-drama vehicle, to an appearance on BBC1's *Blue Peter* to plug their upcoming single, *A Touch of Love*. It's their first ballad, but these precocious minstrels still come across as funky enough to make even Shep get down. Myriad further bookings are due, on everything from Channel 4's *Bigger Breakfast* to the Disney Channel. Nor must we forget their own website. Comin' atcha indeed.

The *Showbiz Family Higgins* was delivered in Birmingham, but it was after their mother Christine, herself a session singer, decamped with the girls to Manchester's notorious Moss Side that their potential became unmissable. "I started writing poems when I was about four or five," says Cleo. "Some of them were so good that Mum didn't think they were mine."

> 'I've got only one friend, who I've known for seven or eight years. Instead, I have associates'

What began as sing-songs with mum in the kitchen soon became a local attraction at youth clubs and parties. When Cleopatra became an apparently overnight success this time last year with *Cleopatra's Theme* they had in truth been polishing up their act for six years. But even these three sunny maidens found that fame had a darker side.

"I never used to get detention," says Yonah, the most reserved of the girls. "But then when they found out I was in Cleopatra, I was on report straight away."

Cleo adds: "You get people saying they're your cousin, or if you babysat for someone once they say you were their personal babysitter."

Even if success doesn't change you, it can work some voodoo on the people around you. "We live across the road from a load of fans," Cleo says, "and this morning I went to the local Spar to buy some chicken for my Mum. In the shop they were shouting 'It's that girl from Cleopatra.' And there I am just walking down the street trying to be as normal as possible."

As the eldest sister, Zainam comes over as the voice of prudence. As Cleo chirrups confidently about still knowing who her friends are, Zainam cuts her short with impressive pragmatism. "You will know who your friends are, when or if Cleopatra disappear," she says. "I've only got one friend, who I've known for seven or eight years. Instead, I have associates. These so-called associates don't want to talk to me, or they only want to talk to me because of what we're doing. Associates that I haven't seen since school, all of a sudden they're phoning the house."

In America, Cleopatra are signed to Madonna's Maverick label, and they talk about her like a favourite, hip auntie. "She sends us faxes to say the single's doing well or whatever," says Zainam. Written personally? "Well, I think it's her. We don't actually know her handwriting."

Domestically, the support staff is headed by their omnipresent mother, their managers and tutor, the doubtless long-suffering Barry. How goes the studying, then? "Three hours a day, same as usual," says Cleo world-wearily, and then asks me for a little help with her homework: "Do you know what *pi* stands for?" They attend a minimum of 15 hours of lessons per week and even Zainam is voluntarily continuing her studies. Far from being distracted by fortune, she says that her pop life has had a grounding effect. "I bucked my ideas up when I came into the business," she says.

But isn't it tricky trying to remember the difference between a circumference and radius when the lesson is sandwiched between a *Smash Hits* interview and a photo shoot? "It's hard, but all you need is someone to jog your memory," says Cleo. "We do mess about, though. When Barry says something about 'yesterday', we start singing 'all my troubles seemed so far away ...' But I think he quite likes it, because he gets to travel the world."

There is a fourth Higgins sister, ten-year-old Terri who, in the best Jacksons and Osmonds tradition, is being groomed to join the group. "We'll be like the Jackson 5, but without Randy," says Zainam.

Only too aware how that troupe has generated enough horror stories to rival the Addams Family, she goes on: "We don't know the truth, do we? People just see them as a problem family. Michael to me is all about music, and if he had no face I'd still love him."

It is hard to imagine any serious emotional derailing in the rather more prosaic world of the Higginses. Ice-cream discarded, the talk switches back and forth between schoolgirl chatter ("There were lots of cute guys in Japan, the only thing is they don't have bums") and businesslike briefings on their new merchandise company, Cleopatra Ltd, and the state of their finances. "We've got the money invested," Zainam says, as if I needed confirmation that it hadn't all gone on trainers or anything more sinister. "I've taken out Peps now."

● Comin' Atcha *begins on CITV at 4.45 this afternoon.* A Touch of Love *is released by WEA on Feb 22. Cleopatra's website address is www.cleopatramusic.com*


It's a great life being part of Cleopatra, even if you have to pose with a large cardboard cut-out of a television set

Terrific Italian job

INSTABILE ORCHESTRA
Italian Instabile Festival
(Leo CD LR 262/263)
THE 19-piece Instabile Orchestra is one of the glories of European jazz. A genuine democracy, yet holding in its ranks some of Italy's most celebrated musicians, it is routinely referred to as a free-jazz ensemble, but incorporates into its richly textured music everything from graceful folk melodies and snatches of opera to witty references to the blues and banda traditions.

This double CD captures the orchestra live in the Teatro Verdi, Pisa, and as an introduction to the band's range and virtuosity it could not be bettered. Woosily eccentric, rowdy ensembles jostle with small group free jazz and the odd solo feature; the most elegant of clarinet airs are succeeded by irreverent trombone pieces or live electronic duets. Given that the French were granted a day at last year's London Jazz Festival, and that the Swedes are presently here in force, Italian jazz, arguably the most vibrant in Europe at present, surely deserves a UK airing.

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

VINTAGE JAZZ
Trust Me, I'm A Builder
(PEK Sound PKCD-110)
WITH the modest amount of media attention jazz attracts so firmly focused on youthful prodigies, cutting-edge avant-gardists and the odd mature legend, it is easy to forget that there is thriving market for the sort of traditional, New Orleans style music Vintage Jazz plays. Recorded live at last year's Bude Festival, clarinettist Harry Brampton — a high, sweet, agile player with a deliciously woody sound in the lower registers — and the suitably sassy brass pairing of cornettist Dave Stradwick and trombonist John Shelley lead a vigorous sextet through a lovely selection of rueful blues, stomps and the odd piece of cheerful bawdiness.

CHRIS PARKER

Arise, Charles the second

POP ALBUMS: What do you get if you wait 18 years for a Chuck E. Weiss LP? A treat, says **David Sinclair**

CHUCK E. WEISS
Extremely Cool
(Slow River/Rykodisc SRRCD 41 £12.99)
EXTREMELY cool is a bit of an understatement as far as Chuck E. Weiss's career is concerned. His profile has been so far underground that were it not for the dark lines under his eyes and the gruff, well-travelled tone of his voice, you might think that he had been cryogenically frozen since he released his first album 18 years ago.

Still, no one could accuse the man who inspired Rickie Lee Jones's hit of 1979, *Chuck E.'s in Love*, of going off at half-cock, and this much-delayed follow-up is a cracker.

Aided and abetted by his long-staggering friend Tom Waits, Weiss has whipped up a rich and ragged brew of barrelhouse blues, boho-jazz and Chuck Berry-style rock'n'roll on numbers ranging from the nimble swing of *Sonny Could Lick All Them Cats* to the slow, midnight-in-the-alley rumble of *Deeply Sorry*.

Best of all is *It Rains On Me*, a salty singalong written and performed by Weiss and Waits with a heroically dilapidated swagger. "This is how the world will be/Everywhere I go it rains on me", they wail as a lone kick-drum struggles to keep the song on its feet, and a down-at-heel blues takes on a magical twist.

BABYLON ZOO
King Kong Groover
(EMI 7243 4 97280 £12.99)
"ALL the money's gone", sings Jas Mann with a knowing smirk on the Babylon Zoo single of the same name, released last week. To his evident embarrassment, most people have missed the intended irony, and simply assumed that he is telling the truth. For while Babylon Zoo's celebrated single, *Spaceman*, may have sold in dizzying quantities three years ago, the bandwagon quickly faltered, and that initial success was not translated into subsequent sales of Babylon Zoo's debut album, *The Boy With the X-Ray Eyes*.

Now Mann is back for another bite of the cherry. But if the market was resistant to his group's first album, which was actually rather good, it will take a miracle to get *King Kong Groover* off the ground. A collection of hand-me-down glam-rock themes given a slight Robbie Williams-meets-Oasis twist and sung in a foolish David Bowie-type drawl, this is an album bereft of inspiration, originality or wit.

"A starman fell from outer space", he sings in *Manhattan Martian*, a portentous ballad with an unbelievably threadbare lyric airing a theme which recurs with diminishing returns in *Honeymoon in Space* and *Chrome Invader* ("Cosmic kid with the latest moves/He's a crazy dude").

Elevating a workaday cover version of Mott the Hoople's *Honaloochie Boogie* to third track on the album gives an accurate indication of the paucity of worthwhile material to follow. Instead of reaching for the stars, Mann has fashioned an album that is destined to join similarly hollow offerings by Transvision Vamp, Shampoo and Stiltskin in the bargain bins of the 1990s.

TV SMITH
Generation Y
(Cherry Red CDMRED 151 £10.49)
IT IS hard to think of who from among the first wave of British punks has disgraced themselves less in middle-age than TV Smith, previously the singer with the Adverts. While former members of the Sex Pistols and the Damned et al have degenerated into caricatures, Smith has quietly grown in authority while remaining true to his misfit origins.

The title track of *Generation Y* finds him "Standing here with hands on hips/In a ditch by the super-highway", a perennial outsider and now spokesman by default for a shell-shocked generation that seems unsure of how it got here, unaware of what it wants and unable to comprehend where it is going next.

Musically, the strident, high-speed certainties of youth have given way to a gentler folk-rock approach, which finds Smith playing most of the instruments himself and singing in a marvellous world-weary croak redolent, at times, of Richard Butler of the Psychedelic Furs.

"Awake little Britain", he sings defiantly in *Strong Horse*. Perhaps it is too late for Smith to change the world, but in its own quixotic way this is an album that makes a difference.

TATYANA ALI
Kiss the Sky
(MJJ/Epic 491651 £12.99)
ONE of those modern R&B albums that have been created by committee, *Kiss the Sky* owes its existence to a small army of fashionable American songwriters and producers including Rodney Jerkins, Narada Michael Walden, Shawn Stockman of Boyz II Men, Will Smith, Fred Jerkins III and Kelly Price, to name but a few of the more prominent contributors.

Together they provide the pretty, 19-year-old Tatyana Ali — better known until recently as the actress who played Ashley in the American TV sitcom *The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air* — with a succession of curiously mundane love songs, including her recent hit *Daydreamin'* and current single *Boy You Knock Me Out*.

Although a competent singer capable of summoning a chilly intensity on the incongruously powerful *He Loves Me*, Ali lacks the distinctive vocal signature of a Whitney or a Mariah, and fails to breathe life into more typically banal lyrics such as "I want to fly so high that I kiss the sky", or "I'm sitting here lonely, just a-missing you".

WEBSITES:
Chuck E. Weiss: www.rykodisc.com
TV Smith: www.two1361.com/people/tvsmith.html
Tatyana Ali: www.sonymusic.co.uk
Cleopatra: www.cleopatramusic.com

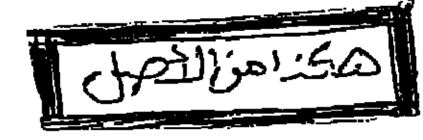
TELEVISION:
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		Title	Artist (Label)
1	(1)	You've Come a Long Way, Baby	Fatboy Slim (Skint)
2	(2)	I've Been Expecting You	Robbie Williams (Chrysalis)
3	(3)	Talk on Corners	Corrs (Atlantic)
4	(4)	Step One	Steps (Jive)
5	(7)	Forgiven, Not Forgotten	Corrs (Atlantic)
6	(5)	Ladies & Gentlemen - The Best of	George Michael (Epic)
7	(6)	Where We Belong	Boyzone (Polydor)
8	(10)	Americana	Offspring (Columbia)
9	(9)	Big Willie Style	Will Smith (Columbia)
10	(16)	The Miseducation of	Lauryn Hill (Columbia)

● *Figure in brackets indicates last week's position*



هكذا من الأصل

RICHARD CANNON



Jeff Randall, the Editor of *Sunday Business*, is due in court today to discover whether he is guilty of contempt in relation to an article on masons in the City

Up against the odds

Jeff Randall is sailing close to the wind as Editor of *Sunday Business*. **Raymond Snoddy** finds out why

the *media* interview

Jeff Randall, Editor of *Sunday Business*, will find out today whether he is guilty of contempt. A row has broken out over an article in this week's paper which "outed" senior masonic figures in the City of London.

In an earlier interview, Randall joked that he was "ankle-deep" in letters of complaint *from masons and that he was* probably on "a masonic hit list". Yesterday he was called to Kingston Crown Court to explain why the paper had referred *to an ongoing fraud* case, involving one of its "outed" masons. Randall has been told to return to court today to hear the verdict of Judge MacRea.

It may not be the most significant story the paper has carried in its 12 months on the streets, but publishing a list of senior masonic members in the Square Mile has certainly put *Sunday Business* in the spotlight. *That story featured* in a burst of radio advertising last weekend, marking the start of a promotional campaign that will run until Christmas. The ad push seems to be working. "Sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and sixty-two copies," says Randall *with the relish of a man enjoying* success after many had felt that finding space for a standalone Sunday business newspaper at the top end of a crowded *market was an impossible* task. "That's the first time (last Sunday) we have been over 60,000." He believes "break-even" sales of 80,000 are coming into sight.

This Sunday, the paper owned by the Barclay brothers *should* get another modest boost to circulation when it enters the Scottish market for the first time. The launch there will coincide with the first is*sue of the Sunday Herald, the* new Glasgow-based paper from the Scottish Media Group. "We are hoping to give our *sister paper, Scotland on Sunday*, a little bit of help by confusing the issue," says Randall, former City editor and sports editor of *The Sunday Times*. Rather cheekily, they plan to ride on the advertising for Scotland's new Sunday.

For some time, Randall has been looking longingly at the possibility of perhaps 5,000 sales in the Edinburgh financial community but thought it *couldn't be done. The paper is* printed on the Portsmouth presses of the Portsmouth and Sunderland Newspaper group and *Sunday Business* felt that it was too far from Portsmouth to Glasgow and Edinburgh to truck newspapers. But on realising that lorries were bring*ing the Barclay brothers' daily, The Scotsman*, south to London, it was agreed that the vehicles could meet halfway to exchange papers.

A further jump in sales to coincide with the anniversary of the paper's launch — on Sunday week — would certainly make Randall happy.

The Barclay brothers — multimillionaires David and Frederick — bought the *Sunday Business title from the receiv*ers after it had become something of a joke. It was so under-capitalised at the original launch almost three years ago that money had to be hunted down just to pay the first week's printing bill.

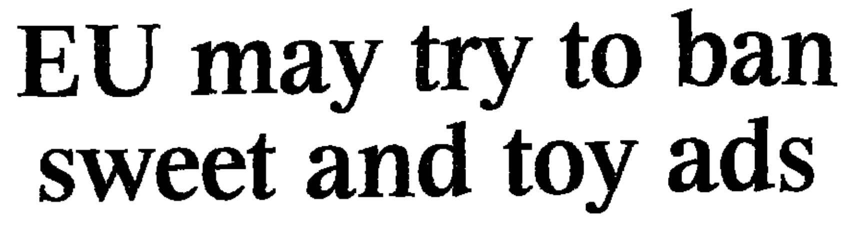
Randall took *comfort from the* fact that the owners had a long-term view and would not start worrying about cashflow after six weeks. "They saw it as a three-year project," he says. "It *is likely to cost the Barclays a* total investment of £20 million to take the paper into profit, with losses of £6 million in the first year, £4 million in the second, £2 million in the third."

> 'I didn't want to bottle out of taking the job as editor'

The Editor's main worry at launch was that the *Financial Times would move against* him with a Sunday edition of its own: "Can you imagine what the *FT* could have done with its brand, its distribution, its network, its authority, its track record." It didn't happen. Indeed, Randall has heard *that Marjorie Scardino, Pear*son chief executive, apparently concerned at *Sunday Business* squatting in its domain, has asked consultants to take a look at the paper. Randall was also wary about the "robust and competitive spirit" of his *former employer, News International*, which owns *The Times*. The worst that his rivals got up to, he says, was spreading a rumour with advertisers that sales had fallen to 17,000. In fact, they bottomed out at 35,000. After *three months of bumping* along at that figure, sales started to rise and the paper's ABC circulation figure for November was just over 50,000.

It is clear that Sunday Business enjoys growing acceptance in its core business and financial market. "I feel obliged to read it. I think it's done quite well," says Anthony Fry, a merchant banker with Credit Suisse First Boston. "*The Independent on Sunday* is a waste of time and *The Mail on Sunday* has lost it. I put *Sunday Business* alongside *The Observer* but behind both *The Sunday Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph*." Randall must attract more people like Fry, those not usually in the office on Sunday who may instead be at their country home. Advertising will help. In future, all ads will be story-led and as far away as *possible from the* disastrous launch campaign which billed Sunday as the "first day of the working week" — making potential readers miserable by threatening them *with work when they were try*ing to enjoy themselves. He believes that supermarkets have played a vital role in increasing sales. There has been a noticeable "bounce" in sales on the last Sunday of the month, a phenomenon he attributes to *the middle classes going to su*permarkets after pay day to buy groceries — and a copy of *Sunday Business*.

This year Randall will target airlines, hotels, restaurant chains and golf clubs. He plans to take the paper to France, The Netherlands and Germany. From worrying that he would make a complete hash of being a newspaper editor, he is starting to daydream that, just may be, a circulation of 100,000 might one day be possible. And dream*ing of the profits such a circula*tion would bring.



EU may try to ban sweet and toy ads

MAKERS *of sweets and toys are alarmed at a* threat by the European Union to ban television ads for under-12s, and the Advertising Association is launching a campaign to fight it. **Campaign** reports that a ban is already in *place in Sweden, and that the Swedes are ex*pected to try to extend it across Europe when they take up the EU Presidency in 2001. It *would hit the revenues of television channels*, especially at Christmas.

BLOODLETTING at Disney Channel UK, as two executives leave after less than a year. *Joan Lofts, the director of programming* and acquisitions, and Amelia Johnson, the head of creative, both handed in their notices last week. **Broadcast** says reports of rows over strategy are denied by the managing director, Paul Robinson, formerly of Talk Radio.

TRADE gap

TANGO fruit drinks are to be relaunched because of a 10 per cent drop in sales, says **Marketing Week**. The manufacturer, Britvic, will *spend £13.8 million on marketing*, including a £9 million advertising blitz, and a new flavour mixing pineapple and grapefruit. Tango is still the bestselling fizzy fruit drink, with double the market share of its closest rival, Lilt.

CHANNEL 4, having snatched Test cricket coverage from the BBC, now has its eyes on the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester. The BBC has broadcast the Games since 1954, and **Broadcast** says that Channel 4's expression of interest could start a bidding war, with a price of up to £12 million.

NEW magazine projects reported by **Press Gazette** include: *New Eden*, a gardening magazine for "funky people", from IPC; *FBX* (For Boys eXclusively), for 7 to 11-year-olds, from BBC Worldwide; *Rock Sound* and *Freeway*, covering rock music and custom bikes, both from Freeway, which already publishes both titles in Europe.

CHANGING FACES — who's going where: Pat Roberts Cairns steps down as the Editor of *Good Housekeeping* but remains a consultant; *Tom Collins quits as the Editor of Irish News* to be communications director at Queen's University, Belfast (**Press Gazette**) Liz Harlow leaves WH Smith to manage Jigsaw, the new marketing consortium for Cadbury-Schweppes, Unilever and Kimberley-Clark; Capital Radio's managing director, Martina King, is talking to *ITV sales house* TSMS about a job; Christopher Masters, the marketing chief at Mondex, joins Visa International as European head of strategy (**Marketing**). Ruth Pitt, Granada's head of documentaries, is to be the Editor of BBC1's *Everyman* series and director of productions at Real Life Productions; Andrew Bell leaves BBC radio news to be political editor for *5 News* on Channel 5 (**Broadcast**). Donna Zurcher of National Media Corporation is to head the UK office of Ogilvy PR Worldwide; John Russell, of the American Chamber of Commerce in Brussels, will head Shandwick's EU public affairs (**PR Week**).

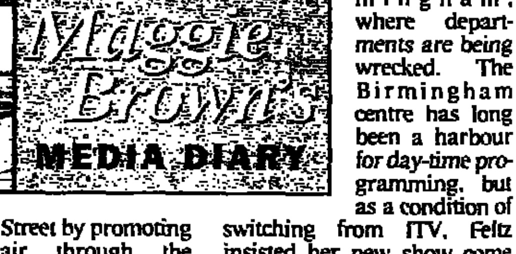
MOVING HOUSE — who gets the business: Mars appoints Duckworth Finn Grubb Waters to advise on the launch of a top-secret children's food range (**Marketing**). Jones Mason Barton & Antenen wins £15 million account *for cable company Telewest*; Swiss engineer ABB is reviewing £10 million account held by McCann-Erickson (**Marketing Week**).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

Justin gets the upper hand

■ HE was judged "too posh" in the BBC's great debate about who should front its main bulletins to maximise audiences and promptly consulted his lawyer. Now I hear that *Justin* Webb, the former Breakfast TV presenter packed off to Radio 4's *The World Tonight*, is to be rehabilitated. He's about to be posted to Brussels, *as the BBC's Europe* correspondent. A public school education is not being held against him for such a post.

As programme editors struggle to make budgets balance in a third year of cuts, Tony Hall, the unpopular chief executive of BBC News and candidate for director-general, has turned to J Walter Thompson to advise on ways of promoting its brand better. *News 24* (share of viewing 0.05 per cent) is certain to be overhauled.



■ NO nonsense about "revenge *is a dish best eaten* cold" where journalists are concerned. David Montgomery's bizarre management methods over a £15 million project to relaunch *The Sporting Life* were detailed by *The Observer* last Sunday in a score-settling piece by John Mulholland, its *joint deputy editor*. The subtext: when Monty sacked Mulholland last summer from *The Sporting Life* editorship, the row erupted across the press and no pay off was forthcoming. Mulholland landed his current job shortly afterwards and has been pondering suing the group. Now triumphant Mirror Group chairman, Sir Victor Blank, is being asked to smooth things over in the time-honoured way.

■ THE *Daily Mail* has worked itself into a lather over the Downing Street plan to bypass Fleet Street by promoting Tony Blair through the regional press, 24-hour news and daytime TV. But anyone who watched Blair on ITV's *This Morning* with Richard and Judy would have noticed that he looked uneasy dealing with unpredictable questions from the public, and was lulled into making that much-criticised laddish remark that Hoddle should go. Remember how Margaret Thatcher was forced to admit, on a Radio 4 phone-in, that the *General Belgrano* was sailing away from the Falklands when she was sunk? I bet Blair prefers the bosom *of the lobby any day*.

ITV



Tony Blair's flirtation with daytime TV nearly ended in tears

■ THIS month should settle the question of who will be third string *Newsnight* present*er, with Jeremy Paxman and* Kirsty Wark. Gordon Brewer is out of the running, leaving David Aaronovitch, Jeremy Bowen and Martha Kearney *in the brains parade*. The hot money is on Bowen, although Kearney may emulate Sue MacGregor's career switch to current affairs.

■ THE bad press for Vanessa Feltz never ends. She is rightly fingered as helping to trigger the crisis engulfing BBC Pebble Mill in Birmingham, where depart*ments are being* wrecked. The Birmingham centre has long been a harbour *for day-time pro*gramming, but as a condition of switching from ITV, Feltz insisted her new show come from London, where she lives.

Combined with the loss of other programmes, the result *is that the two main studios at* Pebble Mill are being used at 20 per cent and 40 per cent of capacity, which points to closure. "It's proof that the market just doesn't work. We just can't abandon production in the English regions," says a senior BBC executive. A working party, under chief executive Will Wyatt is trying to sort it out.

■ I SPENT *an illuminating* day at a City seminar on the future of radio, with Ralph Bernard, David Mansfield, Richard Huntingford, Tim Schoonmaker and Richard Findlay, chief executives of the UK's five main commercial groups (GWR, Capital Radio, Chrysalis Radio, Emap Radio and Scottish Radio Holdings).

They are all fuming at the way the Radio Authority, currently issuing three to four new station licences a month, has failed to award a single *new licence to any one* of them. They're gunning for Sir Peter Gibbings, the former *Guardian* executive who now chairs the authority.

Granada bids for schools' channel

Granada Television has emerged as clear fa*vourite to win a £100 million five-year con*tract to launch a revolutionary interactive digital television channel linked to the six "core" GCSE subjects.

The channel, due to start in the autumn, is being developed by *the Department for* Education and Employment together with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and will be the most ambitious educational project to use the digital television technology. The aim is to have a channel dedicated to educational material on English, French, Geography, History, Double Science and Maths.

Granada, which already has a learning division as *well as being one of the biggest commercial broad*casters, is in competition with United News & Media and the BBC in tendering for the contract.

Lord Hollick, chief executive of United, which has three ITV licences as well as publishing *The Express*, *has been gradually moving into education. A subsidi*ary of United Broadcasting, Anglia Interactive, has been producing curriculum-based material for some time, first for CD-Roms but now mainly for the Internet. United is also in a consortium with the Welsh *Fourth Channel and the cable company* NTL to launch digital terrestrial entertainment services.

The extent to which the BBC is interested in the project in its current form is not clear. The corporation is already planning to launch a general Learning Channel in the spring on digital terrestrial television.

Granada is believed to have put considerable work into its application. It is a 50 per cent shareholder in ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial broadcaster, and would clearly see the contract as a way to promote digital "blackbox" receivers. The aim would be to have a digital receiver in every school. But the prize would be to persuade parents to buy dig*ital receivers for their homes*.

Most of the material for the channels is likely to be specially produced. Over time, databases of material on the six subjects would be built up — including, perhaps, presentations by the best specialist teachers.

Previous initiatives in using television in distance learning have had mixed results. The Open University has had a significant television component from the outset, but the Open College retreated from television because it was too expensive. Digital has been a *significant factor in reducing costs*.

According to the latest Education Department figures collated nine months ago, 85 per cent of secondary schools in England are connected to the Internet but only 17 per cent of primary schools.

RAYMOND SNODDY

media news

A scoop that all reporters should take care to note

In the story of Glenn Hoddle's downfall, accurate reporting by a Times journalist proved crucial

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Matt Dickinson, the *Times* sports journalist who broke the Glenn Hoddle story

TONY HARRIS/PA



Glenn Hoddle speaking at the news conference at which it was announced that his contract as England coach had been terminated

Brian MacArthur PAPER ROUND

As the controversy surrounding his interview with the former England football manager Glenn Hoddle mounted on Monday, Matt Dickinson was summoned to meet Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*.

That morning Tony Blair had raised the stakes by offering his opinion that Hoddle ought to go, but with the crucial proviso that his remarks on the disabled had been accurately reported. Hoddle meanwhile was still insisting he had been misrepresented.

Stothard needed to satisfy himself that *The Times* had not misrepresented Hoddle and that his defence of Dickinson was sound. Several reputations were at stake. So as Dickinson sat with his notebook in a taxi to Wapping he knew he faced a High Noon interview that would ruin either his career or Hoddle's. It was one of several moments of panic he experienced since his interview was published in *The Times* last Saturday.

Dickinson was going through the rare experience for a journalist — shared most recently by *The Guardian* reporters who dared to challenge Jonathan Aitken's "sword of truth" — of being the author of a story that suddenly erupted into a national controversy on which everybody had a view, which threatened the career of a powerful national figurehead and which called into question his motives, veracity and professional skill.

The irony of it all was that the Hoddle interview was arranged through the Football Association itself after a call from the acting chief executive David Davies to sports editor David Chappell. The FA had detected a note of hostility in *The Times*'s assessment of Hoddle and was on a charm offensive before next week's match against France.

When the England manager rings you at home, you stand to attention. So when Hoddle got through to Dickinson on his third attempt last Thursday, Dickinson didn't have time to set up his tape-recorder. He grabbed his notebook and pen and started asking questions, initially about English football.

When he turned to the subject which was unwittingly to lead to Hoddle's downfall, there was no doubt in his mind that Hoddle's comments were on the record: Dickinson prefaced his questions by saying that Hoddle was on record in another newspaper as holding his beliefs in reincarnation. The England manager proceeded to amplify them. He could easily have refused.

A report of Hoddle's comments was made the second lead on Saturday's front page, with the interview on the front page of the Sport section. Once the first edition was published, its news value was instantly evident to other editors. The story also made the front pages of Saturday's *Daily Telegraph* and *The Guardian*, an inside page of the *Daily Mail* and became the splash in *The Sun*, *The Mirror* and *The Express*.

After that it took off on its own. On Sunday *The Observer*, obviously advised by Downing Street, led on a report that "Cabinet ministers" thought "Hoddle must go" and the story also featured on *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Independent* front pages. It dominated the news agenda until Wednesday morning. It wasn't long on Saturday before Dickinson knew that his job was on the line, especially after Hoddle went on the BBC's *Football Focus* to defend himself. Dickinson found his professional reputation called into question. His family rang to tell him that he'd all but been called a liar. There were 50 messages on his answerphone. That was one low moment. Another was when Hoddle announced that he would be issuing a writ. It was not until Tuesday that his moment of vindication arrived when Hoddle himself, in an interview with Harry Harris of *The Mirror*, admitted that he had not been misquoted

"The reporter from *The Times* did not misquote me but he did misinterpret me," Hoddle said. "The point I wanted to make was that there has to be some reason why some people are poor and starving and others are rich and well-fed . . . why some people have the terrible misfortune to be born disabled . . . There has to be some reason for it all. The idea that we have all lived before and that those who were wicked or evil in past lives are not blessed with happy lives is not mine. It is one of many theories and one that is held widely by some religions. Believe me, reincarnation was not something invented by Glenn Hoddle. I am not sure about it but some of it makes more sense than just dismissing the unfairness in life as the luck of the draw."

Given the controversy over Dickinson's report, this was a critical text in which Hoddle had a second stab at explaining his views. The first edition headline in *The Times* on Saturday was "Hoddle says disabled are paying wages of sin". Allowing for the compression required of headlines, "wages of sin" was undoubtedly emotive (and amended to "price of sins" in later editions) but defensible given what Hoddle said in his *Mirror* defence. Both *The Guardian* and *The Daily Telegraph* used the word sins in their Saturday headlines.

Some critics believe that it was Dickinson and *The Times* who brought about Hoddle's downfall. Surely the fault lies with Hoddle himself? As the veteran columnist Ian Wooldridge wrote in the *Daily Mail*, Hoddle wasn't sacked for sharing his metaphysical beliefs but for being dumb enough to reveal them to BBC radio and a "thoroughly reliable" reporter. "Anyone with a grain of intelligence would know they were terminally offensive to the sick, handicapped and underprivileged."

Sensing a fellow journalist's reputation at stake, many of Dickinson's rivals sent messages of support but Dickinson says, nevertheless, that he takes no pleasure from Hoddle's downfall, even though he did not consider him a good coach. "I certainly don't feel smug or exhilarated. It wasn't fun to get somebody the sack."

He also had several moments of "utter paranoia" as he found himself in the role of hunted instead of hunter and caught in the blinding light of 50 flashbulbs. His 15 minutes of fame brought one moment of black comedy when a woman on the Tube recognised him from TV and began berating him about reincarnation. Dickinson's main regret with hindsight is that he did not have time to find and use his tape-recorder. At least, unlike many reporters, he had Teeline shorthand, learned to 100wpm at the postgraduate journalism course at Cardiff.

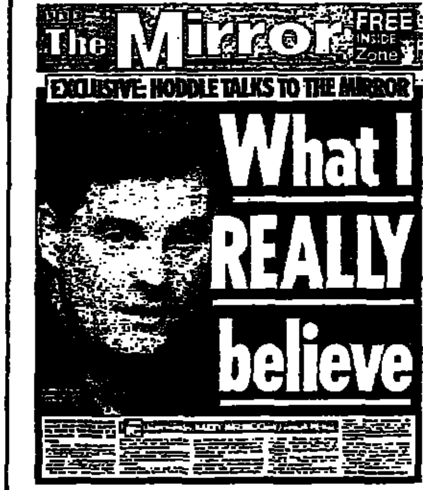
The moral for young journalists is that the old-fashioned skills of good reporters — one of which is shorthand — still count, as Ian Hargreaves, the former editor of *The Independent* and *New Statesman*, who is now professor of journalism at Cardiff, testifies. Shorthand isn't obsolete, he says. It remains indispensable. It certainly saved Dickinson's career when he met the Editor on Monday.

THE PAPERS' HYPOCRISY

The reaction of *The Sun* to the Hoddle saga was instant. Hoddle should be sacked immediately, it said. "Every day he stays on is an insult to every disabled person in the nation."

The Mirror was not so sure. Hoddle's remarks were described on its front page as a "slur" but its chief football reporter Harry Harris managed to get to Hoddle himself on Friday night and reported his view that he'd been "stitched up" — "Someone owes me an apology for misinterpreting my beliefs." By Monday, however, *The Mirror* was certain: Hoddle should go. "The fact that he has not resigned confirms his insensitivity and shows an arrogance unbecoming the coach of our national football team." The England manager needed stature, sensitivity and intelligence. "Glenn Hoddle fails on all counts."

By Tuesday, when it had an exclusive interview with Hoddle by Harris (in which he confirmed the accuracy of Matt Dickinson's report), *The Mirror* had changed its mind. Honest Hod was now worth one last chance. "Yesterday *The Mirror*, like most papers, called for him to resign because we believed he meant the interpretation put on his words by *The Times*. Today



Hoddle speaks to *The Mirror*

we have listened to his fuller explanation and we have altered our view." That view altered yet again on Wednesday. What he had said about reincarnation was clearly offensive to disabled people and the Football Association had acted decisively.

The Daily Telegraph argued consistently that although Hoddle's views might be those of a crank, he should be judged as a football coach. But it could not resist a dig at *The Times* which it said had tried to "board the tabloid bandwagon".

The Daily Telegraph reported the Hoddle saga on its front page on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It had leading articles on Hoddle, op-ed articles and pages about him in the sports section. A case, perhaps, of the pot and the kettle.

Eileen Drewery, the faith healer who inspired Hoddle's beliefs, said after his downfall that it was the press who had destroyed him.

David Lacey argued in *The Guardian*: "The most damning quote of the reincarnartion business has not been Hoddle's garbled rhetoric but Drewery's earlier assertion that 'you have to accept that a lot of people come back to earth to suffer'. To some this might suggest that she has influenced him in a manner unhealthy to his position as an England coach."

Pressure? England have it easy, really

England managers may have trouble with the press but it goes with the territory, says **Brian Glanville**



Alf Ramsey in 1966, shortly before winning the World Cup

Glenn Hoddle, during this week's tribulations, may have felt as a former England manager, Bobby Robson, did in Mexico City in the summer of 1985. The scene was a press conference in the England team's hotel. Having snarled at a photographer who, he thought, was showing him at an unflattering angle, Robson said: "Pressure? There isn't any pressure. You people provide the pressure. If you people didn't exist, my life would be twice as easy and twice as pleasurable."

That Hoddle should be undone by a newspaper interview when he had expressed much the same sentiments about karma and the disabled on BBC radio last May, with no reaction, seems primarily the stuff of . . . karma.

For Hoddle's relations with the press have never been good, from the moment he took over as England coach. Not that they had been idyllic when he was managing Chelsea. Even then, with far less pressure, there was a certain sullenness about him, a tendency to respond peevishly to questions.

With England, he made it plain that he didn't, in his own words, "give two monkeys" what was said and written about him. Well, nor did the most successful England manager of all time, Alf Ramsey, yet his basic contempt for the press never quite deteriorated into the antagonism Hoddle has engendered.

Football journalists felt that they were given scant co-operation during the 1998 World Cup — though they had still less from Bobby Robson in 1990, in Italy. Nor did Hoddle endear himself to journalists by being economical with the truth about injured players who suddenly and miraculously recovered.

But nothing did quite as much to undermine Hoddle's press relations as his links with Eileen Drewery, who may perhaps be seen as the true cause of his present predicament. It was surely Mrs Drewery's muddled ideas that he was expounding in that notorious interview. It was Mrs Drewery, the pub landlady cum spiritual healer, whose fatuous pronouncements had alienated journalists, some of Hoddle's players and many spiritual healers. Mrs Drewery claimed to have had a "one to one with God" and to have prevented Ian Wright from scoring against Italy in a 1997 World Cup eliminator to prevent violence after the match.

It was surely under her influence that Hoddle made some of the most ludicrous pronouncements in his ghastly *World Cup Diary* — whose serial rights he sold for £250,000 to the very paper he had most excoriated, *The Sun*. The same Mrs Drewery whom he astoundingly compared to Jesus Christ — just a "run of the mill" chap who could perform miracles.

Bobby Robson, too, produced a lamentable World Cup diary after the 1986 Finals, admitting that he had told "a white lie". That was in Los Angeles when, in a warm-up friendly against Mexico, Bryan Robson dislocated his shoulder yet again and Bobby pretended he hadn't. Then Bobby insisted on using him in England's first two World Cup games, in the second of which Bryan dislocated yet again and played no further part.

In 1990 both Robsons were bitterly opposed to the press. This was because each had been accused in the tabloids, though not by football journalists, of sexual escapades.

Ted Croker, when secretary of the Football Association, had christened tabloid reporters pursuing scandal as "The Rotters", and so they were known by the soccer press. It made no difference to the Robsons who promoted a climate of hostility among the players. It climaxed just before England met Belgium in Bologna when Paul Gascoigne threw a cup of water at full-back Paul Parker, who was talking to a journalist.

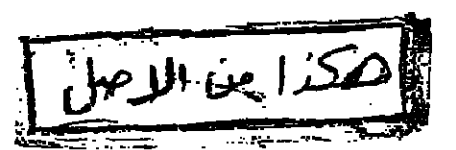
Ironically, a naive Bobby Robson gave the run of the training "camp" to the novelist Pete Davies who was writing a book about the World Cup — only to be appalled by Davies's eventual indiscretions.

Ramsey's disdain for the press didn't prevent it rallying round him when he was dismissed in 1974. The coup d'état, engineered by the late Professor Sir Harold Thompson, a notorious intriguer and future FA President, was harsh, although Ramsey, winner of the 1966 World Cup, had seemed a spent force. Ramsey's greatest antipathy was for foreign journalists, who returned it after his outburst in 1966 at Wembley, following a quarter-final against Argentina. In the semi-final, he said, he hoped that England would meet a team which wanted to play football "and not act as animals".

Few realised that the Argentine players had urinated in the dressing-room corridor and had tried to break into England's team room. On England's 1969 pre-World Cup tour, Ramsey, having said how important it was to establish good public relations, chased Mexican journalists down the dressing room tunnel in Guadalajara.

Looking back it seems astonishing that Walter Winterbottom, England's first manager, should have been so gently treated in his reign between 1946 and 1962. A reign which included the 1-0 defeat against America in the 1950 World Cup in Brazil, and the two thrashings by Hungary, 6-3 at Wembley in 1953, 7-1 in Budapest in 1954.

The truth is that by comparison with Italy, Spain and the South American countries, England coaches even now have a relatively easy ride. And none has yet shown his posterior to the press as did Javier Clemente of Spain.





Sky viewers have been fed a diet of sport, news and US shows such as *The Simpsons* and *South Park*, but a more Britain-friendly approach is needed now

Sky must reinvent itself

Raymond Snoddy

Ten years ago today when Sky Television was born it was difficult to take seriously the claim at the launch ceremony by Rupert Murdoch, chairman of The News Corporation, that a revolution was under way and that TV would never be the same again. It was indeed impressive that four new channels — doubling the number then available — came on air at exactly 6pm that day as scheduled. The programmes, however, looked as if they had been thrown together at the last minute.

Most people focused, perfectly reasonably, on the fact that it was almost impossible to get a satellite dish and hence there were hardly any viewers to watch the launch of "the revolution". Before long, British Satellite Broadcasting would be arriving with its Squarial, better pictures and more sophisticated technology and then the competition would be formidable. Nobody then really knew how eager British viewers would be to pay for multi-channel television since the four existing channels catered for so many tastes.

As we watched the new service that evening my son, then seven, understood the concept straight away: "Does this mean, Dad, that we will be able to watch sport all the time?" That ultimately is the point about multi-channel television, whether through cable, satellite or digital terrestrial — the capacity to devote entire channels to different programme genres for enthusiasts who are willing to pay.

Despite the rows and controversies over pricing and allegations of overweening aimed at Sky, there is no doubt it was Sky that kept cable alive in the early days when there was no other source of decent programming. It is equally clear that without Premier League football, the subject of an ongoing cartel case before the Restrictive Practices Court, multi-channel TV — now watched in almost seven million homes in the UK and Ireland — would have made little impact.

Today Sky, a sister company of *The Times* through News International, is no longer the rogue outsider but an established part of UK television, continuing to nibble away at the viewing shares of the main broadcasters. Yet even as the champagne glasses are lifted in honour of the tenth anniversary, it's obvious there are limits to the extent of the Sky revolution. The Sky channels are not, and will not be in the foreseeable future, a substitute for properly financed terrestrial channels available to all. Sky One, for example, the most popular of the Sky channels, has a 1.5 per cent share of the audience compared with 29.5 per cent for BBC1, according to figures from the Independent Television Commission.

In the past, with the exception of news and sport, Sky has largely been a vehicle for imported programmes, mainly American. That is changing: Sky One has set a target of 50 per cent original programming within the next two years. Sky has also formed its own production company, Sky Pictures, which will invest £80 million to produce 20 theatrical-release films. For Sky to have greater impact in future, it will have to increase considerably its investment in original British production so it really does look more like a mainstream British broadcaster.

Such investment is not a luxury because Sky will inevitably face increasing competition. The Restrictive Practices Court could rule that the exclusive television rights deal with the Premier League is illegal, setting off a mad scramble for the rights to whatever games can be scooped up. Either way, packages of games are certain to be offered to different broadcasters when the contract runs out in 2001.

The balance of power is increasingly shifting towards the cable companies, thanks to the telephone services they also offer. The cable industry is now running some programme services of its own such, as Front Row, the pay-per-view movie service. More will follow. Sky will have to be every bit as imaginative and as revolutionary in its second decade. Its continued success will depend much on how fast it can drive its digital services and, in particular, its new interactive home shopping channel.

London is 'TV news capital of the world'

Britain has trumped the American networks, says **Stewart Purvis**, chief executive of ITN

London has replaced New York as the capital of the world's television news business, a shift of power that has taken less than ten years. American comedies and popular drama may be flooding into Britain but British television news is reversing the flow of funds across the Atlantic.

At the start of the Nineties, the square mile near Central Park which housed all the network headquarters was the place that mattered in television news. British executives looked to New York to take the lead on how a big international story was to be covered on the ground and on the screen.

Today there is almost an "Anywhere But New York City" syndrome, even for Americans. NBC has put its affiliate service, News Channel, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and its main news desks are now in New Jersey.

The fading power of the networks and their home city dates from the Gulf War. The networks did not have a good war. They spent a lot of money but were outmanoeuvred by CNN, the upstart from Atlanta. CNN built its reputation by having correspondents in front of live satellite links, but left much of the frontline picture-gathering to other broadcasters, particularly ITN, with which it had strong relationships.

New York newsrooms had always looked down on their European counterparts. They seemed to think that if New York wasn't covering a story, then the story did not matter. CNN, however, which suffered from none of the corporate excesses of Manhattan, needed to build bridges and do coverage deals.

In a realignment of alliances after the Gulf War, British and American news organisations made judgments about old partners and began a whirlwind of divorces and second marriages. ABC broke with ITN and went with the BBC, which spurned its traditional partner NBC. NBC, in turn, began to work mostly with ITN, which also built its links with CNN. CBS, which until then had worked on the basis that as the world's leading television news organisation it didn't need to be in an alliance with anybody, finally joined up with Sky News, which also found a sister network in Fox News.

For the first time commercial judgments were made in what had previously been an old pals "swap shop" of news video. Partners tried to put a value on each other's content and services, money started changing ıands and mostly it started coming this way ıcross the Atlantic. British news gatherers wre doing more news-gathering around theworld than the Americans. ITN pulled its coerage out of a mainly American-owned ageny and began selling the rights directly to other broadcasters.

Since then, developments have been hastened by takeovers and mergers of Amerıcan networks which have made the bottm line ever more important. Awkward qustions have been asked about the costs of retwork news, and non-newsmen have sometimes been put in charge to find the answers.

By comparison, the upheavals inBritish television news seem both minorand to have had real benefits. News-gahering, whether by BBC, ITN or Sky, hs been strengthened. New technology hs been used to reduce labour costs, releasin money for investment in news coverage. Oce British television would go to America o study cost-effective working practices, nowhe British are seen as the pioneers. Londonseems a more sensible place to do internatioal news business. So if you are the Amerian news agency Associated Press Televisionand you have just taken over one of your main competitors, WTN, there is no doubt where you put your international headquartes.

The American unions can ıake their share of the credit. At the end of last year, ABC had to cope wit a major strike at its New York offices. Afew years earlier, it was NBC. Gone are the ıays when the head of one US network wouldtell a British broadcaster he was reluctantto go into an alliance with it because it recognised unions. Now the networks marvel ıt the British model of recognition with lite conflict.

From this base the British are elling news reports and developing internaional news channels. New York, by comparion, is interested only in domestic channel. So if you are in the city of New York and want to catch up on cable with news beyond the borders of America, you have only two choices — ITN World News for Public Televison on Channel 13 and BBC World News o Channel 21. Both programmes are made inLondon with working practices that the neworks would die for — and sent by satellite o New York.

‘Erotic television has gone too far’

The creator of *Eurotrash* claims C5’s sex-based programming is irresponsible, says **Chris Ayres**

Peter Stuart is television’s original king of trash. The quiet, bespectacled American, is the brains behind Channel 4’s *Eurotrash*, a programme almost entirely devoted to sexual innuendo and toilet humour, and a string of similarly tacky shows, such as *Baadass TV* and *The Girlie Show*.

Without Stuart, it is unlikely that Michael Grade, the former head of Channel 4, would ever have earned the title of “Britain’s Pornographer-in-Chief”.

Yet Stuart, who is about to launch another risqué Channel 4 series, called *Le Show*, believes that “erotic programming” on terrestrial television has gone too far. Indeed, he openly criticises David Elstein, head of Channel 5, who was attacked last week by the Broadcasting Standards Commission over his station’s sex-based programming. “What I see on Channel 5 is soft-core porn at its very worst and sex journalism at its most irresponsible,” he says. “However, I think *Eurotrash* did usher in a new era of eroticism on British television, and help to open a lot of doors that should have been opened.”

He is aware, however, that many may find his criticism of Channel 5 rather hypocritical, given the sexually charged content of *Eurotrash*. “But *Eurotrash* is first and foremost a comedy show,” he says. “No sex items make it in unless there is a human element. We wouldn’t do a piece about a porn movie, for example, but we would do a piece about the first porn musical.”

This formula has been astonishingly successful. The last series of *Eurotrash*, which ended two weeks ago, attracted 3.1 million viewers on Friday nights, beating both Chris Evans’s *TFI Friday* and the cult American sitcom *Frasier*. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Channel 4 has just commissioned 17 new shows of *Eurotrash*, to end on New Year’s Eve 1999. Meanwhile, Stuart’s production company, Rapido TV (partly owned by Richard Branson’s Virgin Communications), has seen sales almost double this financial year to £9 million.

“In this age, where sex television is the thematic wallpaper of late-night schedules, *Eurotrash* is getting its highest ever ratings,” Stuart says. “It is raising its sordid little head above all those other programmes. That’s proof to me that it is a well written, subversive and witty little show.”

Pioneer: Peter Stuart

Stuart, 38, is keen to emphasise that Rapido TV does not earn all its money from *Eurotrash*. The company was founded ten years ago in Paris by Stuart, the son of the American documentary maker Mel Stuart, and by Antoine de Caunes, the dapper French comedian who presents *Eurotrash*. Rapido’s first productions were arts documentaries for Channel 4’s *Without Walls* series. Only later did Rapido produce the series of tacky, sex-obsessed shows that formed the backbone of Channel 4’s late-night schedule in the mid-1990s.

Yet Rapido TV’s output is still diverse. It is currently producing a programme for disabled people, called *Freak Out*, and a new series starring the cult comedian Dennis Pennis. The company also produces educational programmes. Its most recent success was the Bafta-award-winning *Channel Hopping* (aimed at teaching 14 to 19-year-olds to speak French), starring the comedian Eddie Izzard. The programme is now part of the national curriculum.



The faces of *Eurotrash*: the designer Jean Paul Gaultier, left, who co-presented earlier shows with Antoine de Caunes. “No sex items make it into *Eurotrash* without a human element”

Stuart, a self-confessed Francophile, admits to being on a mission to improve the image of the French with the British. “One of the most subversive things *Eurotrash* did — forgetting all the sex and scatology — was to show British people that French people had a sense of humour,” he says.

Like many Americans, Stuart has a mixed attitude towards the British. He is writing a film, to star de Caunes, about his experience with British bureaucracy: it will be called *Mad Dogs and Frenchmen*. “The story comes from when I had a dog in Paris and couldn’t bring it over to Britain because of immigration laws,” he says. “So I took it to northern California, where it died. I was so angry at the stupid, stubborn, arrogant, Victorian, uptight British attitude. It is my life vendetta against Britain. That inspired me to write the film, in which Antoine will play a dog smuggler.” The film will be funded by the French media company Pathé.

Le Show, which will also be shown on Friday nights on Channel 4 in April, is essentially a variation on the *Eurotrash* theme. Yet there are differences: while *Eurotrash* is a tongue-in-cheek series of mini-documentaries, *Le Show* is part chat show, part comedy sketch show and part vaudeville, hosted by de Caunes. As Stuart says: “I want it to be a big brassy Eurotainment show.”

The pilot is rather hit and miss, but there are some funny moments, such as a spoof version of *The Jerry Springer Show* (“My husband is an existentialist. And I always thought he was a classical empiricist”). It will also feature celebrity interviews, although it is not clear who would be stupid enough to sign up. As Stuart says: “We are not interested in what the celebrity has to say. I think celebrities are just as bored with celebrity interviews as the public is.”

Getting it right for nurses



AS WITH other recent advertising “briefs from hell”, there appeared to be little that advertising could do for nursing recruitment in the face of daily negative PR.

Unlike the case of the Millennium Dome, however, the announcement of double digit percentage pay increases for new recruits gave the Department of Health the hook upon which to hang an ad campaign.

However, between the decision being taken to make the pay award and the commercial going on air after *News at Ten* on Monday, there was an almighty kick-bollock-scramble at Saatchi & Saatchi, the nursing ad agency.

The ad features Rachel, a patient recovering from a serious accident and unable to talk. All she does is stare blankly into the camera — for an uncomfortably long time. The spell is broken only by a flicker of recognition at the voice of the nurse who has been caring for her. Text on the screen reminds us that “nurses make a difference”.

Viewers are then encouraged to dial a hotline number to find out about either returning to nursing, or training to become a nurse. Only then is there a discreet reminder that pay has improved.

If you look closely you can tell how little time the agency had. Agencies often spend six months coming up with a creative treatment of a talking head addressing a locked-off camera, but not here.

The script had to be simple. There was no budget for big effects or sexy locations — but then we are talking about attracting young nurses to the NHS. What’s more, it all had to be done in a week.

What is hidden well is the behind-the-scenes debate as to how much to make of those rises in the ad itself. Simply to claim that nursing had changed because of the award would have been too patronising, even for this Government. Nevertheless, the agency couldn’t ignore the rises; it had to feed off the accrued PR to legitimise running a campaign at all.

The resulting campaign is an attempt to strike a balance between the emotional reasons why people have historically chosen nursing as a career, and the Government’s new pay message. It amounts to an extraordinarily difficult task carried out with tact and emotional appeal.

■ There has been much talk about the role of the Nationwide Building Society’s marketing director, Michael Lazenby, in Glenn Hoddle’s downfall.

Would Hoddle have gone without the intervention of the likes of Tony Blair and Tony Banks. Who can now say? What is clear is that once the Football Association’s new sponsor, Nationwide, started speaking out, Hoddle was doomed. The FA, fresh from Green Flag ending its arrangement, could not afford another disaster.

SAATCHI & SAATCHI



‘Rachel’: nurses make a difference

Lazenby himself will have learnt a little about the dangers of being quoted this week. The trade magazine *Marketing* interviewed him about the Hoddle affair and asked him to explain his current apparent preference for sponsorship over television advertising. “When people are watching television they see adverts, but they are not really watching them,” he said. Now, while not quite in the Hoddle league of gaffes, it wasn’t too clever for the marketing director of a company that has spent between £8 million and £15 million a year for the best part of a decade.

It will make fascinating reading for the agencies pitching for the Nationwide advertising account, after the recent acrimonious split with its former agency Leagas Delaney. Inevitably, Lazenby was quoted in *Campaign* the next day, trying to squirm his way out of his own words. The irony was not lost on many.

■ The Superbowl imploded this year with the help of a sex scandal and a one-sided game. But, as usual, the real battle took place in the endless ad breaks during Superbowl-related programming.

In an event that has become a byword for excess, Anheuser-Busch excelled itself. The Budweiser brewer paid an astonishing $20 million for ten 30-second slots during the game, keeping out its rival Miller, an official sponsor of the NFL.

Miller had to make do with slots in the the two-hour pre-game show and the two-hour post-match analysis. But who got the rougher deal? Miller can console itself with the thought that Anheuser-Busch paid a premium of 54 per cent over last year for the same positions. Joe Sixpack will have to buy an awful lot of beer to make it worthwhile.

● *Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign*

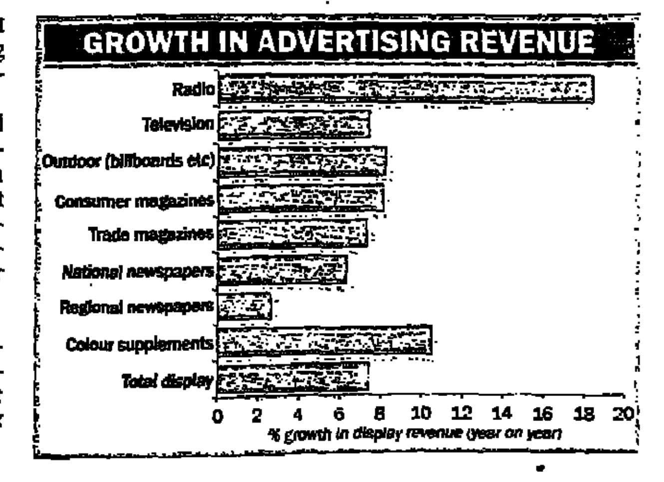
THE UK commercial radio industry saw its total advertising revenue increase to more than £420 million in 1998, according to figures just released by the *Radio Advertising Bureau* (RAB).

This represents an annual growth of 18.6 per cent, or £66 million, as well as being the biggest revenue figure achieved by the industry. This growth is set against a 7.4 per cent year-on-year growth in the display advertising market for January-September 1998; full annual figures are not yet available.

Commercial radio is looking to achieve a 5.4 per cent share of display advertising for 1998 and is on target, according to the RAB.

The growth in commercial radio revenue has been attributed to increasing interest from national advertisers who spent 27.3 per cent more on the medium last year than in 1997. National revenue accounted for 61.4 per cent of annual income.

● *MediaTel’s online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)*



Law Report February 5 1999 House of Lords

Landlord's discount after liquidator's disclaimer

In re Park Air Services plc

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Hobhouse of Woodborough and Lord Millett

[Speeches February 4]

When a solvent company which was a tenant of property under an onerous lease went into voluntary liquidation and the liquidator disclaimed the lease: the landlord, in proving for his loss in the liquidation, had to submit to an appropriate discount for accelerated receipt to reflect the present value of the rents and other payments which would have accrued in the future but for the disclaimer.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the liquidators of Park Air Services plc, Vivian Murray Bairstow and Nigel Ruddock, against a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Potter and Lord Justice Mummery) (*The Times* May 14, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1376) by which it allowed an appeal by the landlord, Christopher Moran Holdings Ltd, from Mr Justice Ferris ([1996] 1 WLR 649) on the landlord's originating application seeking a determination of the debt the landlord was entitled to prove for in the liquidation.

Section 178(6) provides: "Any person sustaining loss or damage in consequence of the operation of a disclaimer under this section is deemed a creditor of the company to the extent of the loss or damage and accordingly may prove for the loss or damage in the winding up."

Mr Terence Etherton, QC and Mr Peter R Griffiths for the landlord; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Richard Adkins, QC, for the liquidators.

LORD MILLETT said that since the disclaimer operated to bring to an end both the tenant's liability to pay rent and the landlord's right to receive it, the landlord could not prove for future rent. The tenant's obligation to pay it had gone.

Since that was the consequence of an act which was authorised by section 178 of the Insolvency Act 1986, the landlord had no right to claim damages at common law for his loss. Instead section 178(6) gave *him a statutory right to compensation.*

That was normally measured by reference to the difference between the rents and other payments which the landlord would have received in future but for the disclaimer and the rents and other sums which the disclaimer would enable him to receive by reletting.

But the subject matter of the landlord's proof was compensation for loss of his right, inter alia, to future rent, not the rent itself, to which he no longer had any claim.

The amount of that loss had to be assessed. That involved giving *credit for the receipts which the disclaimer* would enable him to obtain by reletting. Thus even the undiscounted amount of the landlord's proof did not represent the aggregate amount of the rents and other sums which he would actually have received but for the operation of the disclaimer.

There was no justification for employing a different approach in the assessment of compensation than would be employed if the claimant were claiming damages for breach of a contract which had been wrongfully terminated.

In assessing damages in such a case, however, allowance would *have to be made for accelerated receipt* of any sums which had not fallen due at the date of breach, and which the contract did not make immediately due and payable in the event of breach. An award of compensation which failed to take that into account would overcompensate the claimant.

The Court of Appeal rejected the liquidators' argument that the question should be approached simply as a claim for damages for breach of an ordinary commercial contract in which the claimant was seeking compensation for the loss of future income: although that was what the language of section 178(6) indicated.

Instead, the Court of Appeal regarded the landlord as a secured creditor, his security taking the form of a right to re-enter and recover possession for non-payment of rent and to distrain for unpaid *rent.*

That enabled the Court of Appeal to treat the landlord as a secured creditor who had voluntarily surrendered his security and was proving for the whole debt as if it was unsecured.

The short answer to that was that a landlord was not a secured creditor within the meaning of section 248 of the 1986 Act. Section 248 defined "secured creditor" as a creditor of the company who held a security over the property of the company. A secured creditor who did not realise or voluntarily surrender his security had to put a value on his security and prove only *for the balance as an unsecured* creditor.

None of those provisions was capable of applying to the landlord's right of re-entry. That was not a security interest subsisting in the tenant's property, nor was it capable of being realised by the landlord. It did not secure the performance of the tenant's liability to pay rent, which remained unsatisfied as well after re-entry as before.

It could not be valued or surrendered. If the lease was disclaimed it was not voluntarily surrendered by the landlord but brought to an end by the liquidator without his consent.

Once it was disclaimed, the right to re-enter was gone together with the right to future rents payment which it was supposed have secured. It was a very curious security which was liable to evaporate just when it was needed.

Having thus circumnavigated *section 178(6), the Court of Appeal* applied rule 11.13(3) of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925), which was concerned with the proof of debts payable at a future time, to the landlord's proof of debt.

Rule 11.13 was a curious provision, newly introduced in 1986, when interest during the winding-up was for the first time made payable on debts proved in the winding-up. Its effect seemed to be that there was no discount for accelerated receipt of a future debt in a solvent winding-up.

Mr Justice Ferris was plainly right to hold that that rule had no application to a proof submitted by a landlord pursuant to section 178(6). Such a proof was not a proof for a debt of which payment was not due at the date when the company went into liquidation.

At that date the landlord was not a creditor in respect of any loss or damage arising in consequence of the disclaimer, for the lease had not then been disclaimed. That was why section 178(6) only deemed him to be a creditor. Nor did he afterwards prove for a debt of which payment was not due at the date of the declaration of a dividend.

He proved for the statutory compensation to which he was entitled by virtue of the section. That was not a right to a future payment. The claim remained to be quantified; but subject thereto it was a present right to immediate payment.

The landlord's argument attached great importance to the alleged *anomaly of applying* a discount to its claim in respect of future rents and not to the proofs of other creditors in respect of future debts. Both, the landlord submitted, suffered the loss of a future stream of income.

But there was no anomaly.

The Court of Appeal evidently considered that the landlord could, but for the disclaimer, have proved for the future rent and recovered it without discount. But in practice he could not have proved for the future rent. He would have had to wait until the rent fell due and then prove quarter by quarter.

That was because rent was not a *simple* debt. It was the consideration for the right to remain in possession. The tenant's liability to pay future rent depended upon future events.

Rent in respect of a future rental period might never become payable at all. Rent payable in future under a subsisting lease could not be *treated as a series of future debts* making up a pure income stream.

There was a critical distinction between contracts which had been fully performed by the creditor and contracts which remained executory on his part.

The creditor who had lent money which had not been repaid or supplied goods or services which had not been paid for sued or proved in respect of a debt. If the debt was not yet due at the date on which a dividend was declared, the dividend was subject to adjustment under rule 11.13.

The creditor who had contracted *for payment for goods or services* still to be supplied by him, however, was not and might never become entitled to payment. He could not sue or prove in respect of a debt.

His Lordship drew attention to the respects in which the drafting of rule 11.13 appeared to be seriously defective.

For more than a *hundred years* provision had been made for future debts to be discounted at the rate of 5 per cent per annum in order to arrive at their present value.

The process of discounting involved applying the discount to the reducing amount of the debt, thus *arriving at a sum* which, invested at compound interest, would equal the nominal value of the debt at the date when it fell due.

Rule 11.13(2), however, applied the discounting formula to the full, that is, unreducing, amount of the admitted proof. Such a process would reduce the proof to zero after 20 years, and at no stage yielded an amount which, invested at 5 per cent compound interest, would equal the nominal value of the debt at the date fixed for payment.

The second respect in which the drafting appeared defective was in relation to the amount and priority of the discount to be added back where the company was solvent.

Obviously the first priority was to satisfy the principal amount of the debts, including the discounted value of any future debt. Once *those* had been satisfied in full, one would expect the amount of the discount from the date of the liquidation to the date of final distribution to be paid pari passu with the interest payable during the winding up to other creditors.

Instead, however, the creditor whose proof had been discounted recovered *the full amount of the discount*, not to the date of final distribution, but to the date, possibly still far into the future, when his debt would have fallen due for payment: and he recovered that, not pari passu with the interest payable to other creditors during the winding-up, but in priority to such interest.

It was difficult to believe that had been the intention of the Rules Committee.

Lord Slynn, Lord Lloyd and Lord Hope agreed. Lord Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Memery Crystal; Lawrence Graham.

Substituted service on indemnity fund

Abbey National plc v Frost (Stephen Leonard), Solicitors' Indemnity Fund Ltd intervening

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment February 4]

The court had power to order substituted service of a writ on the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund where a defendant solicitor indemnified by the fund had defaulted, even if there was no likelihood that such service would bring the proceedings to the defendant's notice.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Abbey National plc, reversing the decision of Mr Justice Carnwath (*The Times* March 12, 1998; [1998] 2 All ER 231), and restoring that of Master Moncaster who, on December 8, 1997, upheld the validity of an order by a district judge in Nottingham on June 24, 1997, granting the plaintiff leave to effect substituted service of a writ issued against the defendant, Stephen Leonard Frost, by serving it on the Solicitors' Indemnity Fund.

The defendant acted for the plaintiff building society and its borrower in relation to a loan secured on a leasehold flat in London in November 1990. The loan was for £160,000 and its avowed purpose was to assist the borrower to purchase the flat for £195,000.

The plaintiff claimed that the defendant, negligently and in breach of fiduciary duty, omitted to tell it that the purchase was a sub-purchase with the consideration of £195,000 being apportioned as to £132,000 to the vendor and £62,000 to the sub-vendor. In October 1992, the borrower having defaulted on the mortgage, the plaintiff resold the flat for only £70,000.

The defendant, a sole practitioner, had been struck off the roll of solicitors for conduct unconnected with the present case and was reported to be living in Thailand.

The Rules of the Supreme Court provide by Order 65, rule 4: "(1) If ... it appears to the court that it is impracticable for any reason to serve [a document such as a writ] in the manner prescribed, the court may make an order for substituted service...

"(3) Substituted service of a document ... is effected by taking such steps as the court may direct to bring the document to the notice of the person to be served."

Mr Rupert Jackson, QC and Mr Andrew Goodman for the plaintiff; Mr Richard Seymour, QC and Mr Matthew Jackson for the fund.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the court was compelled by the evidence to proceed on the footing that, if the order for substituted service were restored, there was no likelihood that the writ would reach the defendant or come to his knowledge.

On that footing, Mr Seymour submitted that under Order 64, rule 4 no order for substituted service, whether by service on the fund or otherwise, could properly be made.

He relied on *Porter v Freudenberg* ([1915] 1 KB 857, 888-890) in which the Court of Appeal held that substituted service should only be permitted where the plaintiff was unable to effect personal service and the writ was "likely to reach the defendant or to come to his knowledge if the method of substituted service which is asked for by the plaintiff is adopted".

Mr Justice Carnwath had accepted Mr Seymour's contention that that case established a general rule, which applied to the present case, that substituted service would not be ordered where the defendant's whereabouts were unknown and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge.

The judge had not been referred to the rules of court as they stood when *Porter v Freudenberg* was decided. As set out in *The Supreme Court Practice 1914*, they included a provision in Order 9, rule 2 for substituted service broadly equivalent to the present Order 65, rule 4(1), but there was no equivalent of the present rule 4(3).

However, the notes to Order 10, the equivalent of the present Order 65, rule 4(2), providing for supporting affidavits, in the 1914 edition set out "principles usually followed as to 'substituted' or other service" which had been settled by the *King's Bench masters in May 1908*, and included the following: "If the writ is not likely to reach the defendant nor to come to his knowledge if service is substituted, then as a general rule substituted service should not be ordered."

In *Porter v Freudenberg*, the court gave leave to effect substituted service on two German nationals, personal service on whom was impossible in time of war, by service on their agents in this country.

The defendants had assets in this country which it would have been unjust to take in execution unless the court could be satisfied the writs were likely to reach them or come to their knowledge.

It was therefore natural for the court to express itself as it did in that case in the form of a general rule. But general expressions of opinion, however eminent their source, must always be read in the light of the particular facts which occasioned them.

Despite its acceptance of the principles adopted by the King's Bench masters, the views expressed by the Court of Appeal in *Porter v Freudenberg* could not be treated as having narrowed the discretion under what was now Order 65, rule 4(1) in relation to other facts, in particular where there was reason to suppose that the defendant had chosen to disappear and would be most unlikely, if served, to contest the claim or assist the fund in doing so.

The current wording of Order 65, *rule 4(3)* was *introduced in* 1962. Its effect, broadly stated, was to elevate the principle of discretion adopted by the King's Bench masters into the rule itself.

On that footing, his Lordship was unable to agree with the judge that it carried an implied requirement that the order would be likely to bring the document to the notice of the person to be served.

Rule 4(3) could not detract from the discretion of the court under rule 4(1). It was intended to provide for what would no doubt constitute the vast majority of orders for substituted service. Its effect could perhaps best be understood by reading in the words "if any" between "taking such steps" and "as the court may direct".

In the present case, the fact that the defendant solicitor's whereabouts were unknown and there was no likelihood that the writ would reach him or come to his knowledge, was no bar to an order for substituted service on the fund if it would otherwise be proper to make such an order.

Having regard to the purposes for which the fund was set up and the public nature of its obligations in relation to defaulting solicitors, his Lordship agreed with the master that it was proper in the present case.

Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker agreed.

Solicitors: Curtis & Parkinson, Nottingham; Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave.

Plea-bargaining bid deplored

Regina v Dossetter

Plea-bargaining to extract from a judge an exact sentence formed no part of English jurisprudence.

Lord Justice Rose so stated on January 29 when, sitting in the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, with Mr Justice Hooper, the court dismissed the appeal of Anthony William James Dossetter against a seven year sentence of imprisonment imposed at Chester Crown Court by Judge Dutton on July 16, 1998 on conviction of conspiracy to produce counterfeit money.

HIS LORDSHIP said that on June 1 and 2, 1998 there had been six visits by Dossetter's counsel to the judge's private chambers. That was a blatant attempt by counsel to engage in plea-bargaining with the judge before Dossetter decided to plead guilty.

Fortunately, the visits were tape-recorded. In *R v Turner* ((1970) 54 Cr App R 352) Lord Parker of Waddington, Lord Chief Justice, set out principles which had to be applied to private discussions between judge and counsel that had since been repeated in the courts.

It was also stated by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, in *R v Warth* ((1991) 12 Cr App R (S) 680) that there should be no visits to a judge except in most exceptional circumstances and there was a need for record in chambers.

THE TIMES
EDUCATION

Lifting morale with pay

The inevitable hullabaloo over performance-related pay hijacked the debate over this week's proposals for attracting more and better graduates into the teaching profession. There was more to the Government's proposals, and there needed to be.

Rewarding high performance should help to prevent good teachers from leaving the profession, as they have been doing in ever-increasing numbers. But the promise of incentives several years into a career is not going to sway many of the thousands of graduates who turn their backs on teaching each year. Starting salaries have never compared badly with those of other graduate occupations.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, should be wary of placing all his eggs in the performance-related basket in any case, because the system is far from certain to work effectively.

Government spokesmen were talking tough this week, insisting that change would come no matter what the opposition. But that is a different matter from making it act as the magnet the Government wants.

The unions were always going to resist anything that could be portrayed as a throwback to Victorian payment by results. Yet how could this fail to be part of a merit-based system? Pupil achievement, after all, is what schools are all about. The sticking point, as usual, is how it should be measured.

The National Union of Teachers will oppose the concept, no matter what, and has already threatened industrial action. The union is demanding that all senior teachers cross the proposed pay threshold — a stance that says everything about its willingness to contemplate a new approach. The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT) has also come out against the scheme since it discovered the scale of the Government's demands. Even the Professional Association of Teachers, the most conservative of the unions, was critical this week.

Nigel de Gruchy, NASUWT's general secretary, predicted a "grassroots rebellion" when teachers saw that they would be required to sign new contracts and play a fuller role in the school to qualify for higher pay rates. "There might be jam tomorrow," he said, "but it's jam tomorrow if you're prepared to do extra work tomorrow."

John O'Leary

Ministers probably expected trouble from the classroom unions, but it will be the attitude of head teachers which determines whether performance-related pay works as intended. The proposals give heads a lot of flexibility in judging their staff, and some will be reluctant to use it. The collegiate ideal runs deep in education, and it will take time for some head teachers to accept a system which they fear will divide the staffroom.

Others will balk at the complexity of the system and its demands on the time of school managers, who will be required to agree individual targets and monitor their implementation, as well as taking responsibility for the outcome.

Peter Smith, the general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, says: "I've never read anything so bureaucratic and bewildering in my life."

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, did her best to sell the package to teachers at the latest of the Government's consultation meetings in Birmingham this week. "We will raise the standing of the profession," she said. "We will reward good teachers so that they don't get stuck on relatively low levels of pay, improve the quality of training and remove teachers that are not up to the standards required."

Here lies the real challenge for recruitment to the profession, rather than retention. Everyone agrees that this is about more than just money, but governments alone cannot alter the "standing of the profession" and the official messages are still mixed.

Take Ms Morris's statement. Performance-related pay should be good news for a profession whose morale could do with a lift. The majority should benefit eventually and ministers have guaranteed that there will be no limit on numbers. Likewise, the promised improvements to training, which Mr Blunkett now plans to oversee personally.

Yet even at a meeting intended to win over teachers comes the apparently obligatory focus on under-performance. After almost two years in which Labour ministers have made it crystal clear that they will be less tolerant of failure than their predecessors, the carrot still cannot appear without a big stick in the background.

Undoubtedly, there remains an urgent need for improvement in many schools, but it would be more likely to come about with a better balance between the Government's promised combination of "pressure and support".

Even the Teacher Training Agency, whose own performance is to be scrutinised by Mr Blunkett, has expressed concern at the effect on recruitment of constant criticism of state schools. Professor Clive Booth, the TTA's chairman, told the Girls' Schools Association before Christmas that he was confident his message had been heard and that ministers would adopt a more positive tone. Let us hope that he is right.

Even yesterday, at the publication of a survey on instrumental music tuition, Dr Janet Ritterman, the Principal of the Royal College of Music, identified plummeting self-esteem as the most serious cause of growing teacher shortages.

If you tell a profession often enough that it is full of dead wood, and its own representatives constantly emphasise the negative aspects of the job, it is not surprising if young people choose to look elsewhere for a career.

Pushing back boundaries for school governors

Guidelines are needed to ensure that governors understand their position. **David Tytler** reports

MARTIN BEDDALL·FIONA HANSON·SIMON WALKER







School governors Richard Whiteley, Cherie Booth and Jack Straw

School governors have been put into the front line of the Government's drive to raise standards in state schools. They already have overall responsibility for the curriculum and this week they were told that they would become the final arbiters of performance-related pay.

There has always been a grey area between the governing body and the head teacher. Governors have the legal responsibility for ensuring good quality education and the head and staff are obliged to report to them on how well the school is doing. But governors cannot be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school, even though they are expected to monitor standards and approve strategies. How are they expected to achieve this?

The latest form of Ofsted inspection reports gives some guidance. For example, the head teacher, staff and governors might be told to raise standards by ensuring that the programmes for study in the national curriculum are fully taught, and by continuing to monitor the teachers' progress.

Once a plan for improvement is approved, the governors are responsible for seeing that it is carried out.

Mavis Grant, of Newcastle's Mary Trevelyan Primary School, named by Ofsted as one of England's most-improved schools, says: "Governors can help in lots of ways. They should sit down with the head and the senior staff, and work out the best way to do it."

As the head of a school which has piloted the literacy hour, Ms Grant has more than two years' experience of the most delicate issue of the moment for primary schools. She says: "One governor took special responsibility for literacy. He came into class, talked to teachers and pupils, and had discussions with me before giving his own report to the governing body. It is helpful for governors to get a different perspective on the school."

Even governors who cannot find time to visit classrooms can help to raise standards through strategic planning, Ms Grant believes.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, is more doubtful about how much governors can do to raise standards. "I think it would be very difficult to get them involved, other than in setting targets and then reviewing progress with the head.

"The Government's proposals are asking them to do a lot: the appraisal of heads, receiving recommendations about pay levels, and being involved in the annual review of progress made by the school.It would be difficult for them to become involved in a way which does not interfere with the management of the head. I hope that when the Government's proposals are finalised, they will try to draw a distinction between governance and management, which until now has too often been blurred."

Some of his concerns are shared by Pete Bishop, head teacher of Vyner Primary School, in Birkenhead, who says: "Governors cannot do very much without training. At the moment they have to be guided by somebody who understands the process, and in most cases that is the head."

He is also concerned that governors with jobs may not have enough time to devote to the school. "I fail to see how they can do all that is necessary to monitor standards on a sound basis," he adds. "They could base their views of a school's performance on the end-of-year tests. That may be simple but it is also simplistic. In a primary school, you have to go back over the years on reading tests, spelling tests, baselines assessment and so on, and know about the children and their backgrounds."

Mr Bishop sees trouble if guidelines are not laid down. Governors, he fears, "might want to extend their powers beyond what is reasonable: for example, going into classes and acting like inspectors".

How to beat exam stress

Revision courses give confidence, says **David Thomas**

Easter revision courses must sound to many pupils like a cruel way to spend precious holiday time, but more and more students are finding them a vital addition to their term's work.

"I've learnt more in the past few days than all year," were the flattering words from one student in her end-of-course evaluation. This, of course, cannot be entirely true: you can't cover in five days what you would normally study over five terms. The important thing is that the student believed she had made a breakthrough. Her confidence level had soared, based on actual grades for practice essays and she had learnt more about exam technique than at school.

However, some teachers are sniffy about their students going on revision courses, perhaps seeing such participation as a reflection of their own inadequacy. Occasionally, they would be right. According to Norman Dovey, who has run economics revision at Wellington College in Crowthorne, near Bracknell, for several years, some students do turn up under-prepared for the forthcoming A levels.

Illness, big classes, change of school and change of teacher are bad luck: not covering the required syllabus by Easter is either risky brinkmanship or bad planning. Many students who enrol at Wellington, and other courses, are "borderline" candidates. Their first-choice university, for example, wants a "C" grade, but a "D" is being predicted. Bumping up students by one critical grade is a usual target.

However, you don't have to be behind or between grades to consider an Easter revision course. As one student said to me: "I've had really good teachers. It worried me, though, that during the Easter holiday and study leave, I'd be getting no tuition." He has a point.

At a critical time, students can suddenly find themselves cut off from a life of teacher help and feedback. Many cannot work well alone or concentrate in a home environment. A one-week, one-subject revision course cannot help but focus the mind. Nigel Stout, managing director of Mander Portman Woodward (MPW) tutorial colleges, says that occasionally students are booked in, usually by anxious parents, for three weeks. These are not called intensive courses for nothing; though the length of study is feasible, the demands on stamina and motivation are probably excessive.



Even a week is hard graft. I know because I spent a day sitting in on lessons in MPW London. "Gruelling" and "mind-blowing" were some of the terms used by my fellow students as we relaxed after a four-hour session. They were also unanimous that the system was effective.

At MPW, Easter numbers rose from 518 in 1996 to 918 last year. Mr Stout attributes this to recommendations and the fact that MPW courses are geared not merely to individual subjects but also to modules within subjects, and to specific syllabuses and examination boards.

I joined Richard Martin's English class, where the pace was brisk, the focus clear and all the students were challenged. We worked on *King Lear*, from the point of view of discussing how we would use our knowledge to good effect in an exam. Steve Boyes, one of the course directors, confirmed that although notes are taken, the emphasis is on understanding, study skills and the development of appropriate question-answering techniques.

Extra schooling is not a cheap option: a 40-hour week costs £525 for one subject every day and an hour of invigilated examination practice.

At Wellington there is the chance to live in, an option taken up by 60 per cent of students. Nick Jones, the course director, believes that £485 for a fully residential week with 30 hours of contact teaching represents good value for money.

For students who have never boarded, it is a useful preparation for university; and from the evaluation sheets filled in by students at the end of the course, it is clear that Wellington's sports facilities — squash, badminton, swimming, soccer and weights — are well used in the afternoon break. After 9 o'clock, while tutors are marking practice papers, the day's progress can be discussed over drinks.

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India fade as Saqlain spins web

FROM RICHARD HOBSON IN DELHI

DELHI (first day of five; India won toss): India have scored 247 for eight wickets against Pakistan

THE feeling of goodwill extended towards Pakistan in Madras last week gave way to a simmering rancour at the Ferozshah Kotla ground yesterday. If Pakistan build on a handy start to win the second Test, they are unlikely to be asked to repeat the lap of honour that provided such an appropriate postscript to the first, thrilling contest.

An overwhelming, sometimes overbearing police presence helped to ensure that unfriendly chanting did not develop into more sinister hostility. Uniformed officers made up a big percentage of a crowd of around 15,000 that barely half-filled the stadium and it might have been just as well that more than a third of them had departed before Pakistan claimed four wickets in the last half-hour.

Inzamam-ul-Haq endured taunts of "aloo" every time he fielded the ball and even, uncharitably, when he went off having been struck by a firm drive from Azharuddin. The word translates as "potato" and refers to his rather portly figure. Two years ago, in a one-day tournament in Toronto, he responded to this same cry by uprooting a stump and running towards the stand in search of his critic. He was more restrained here.

Threats to let loose cobras in the arena failed to materialise and the 16 snake charmers brought from a nearby village as a precaution were allowed to remain inconspicuous and enjoy the cricket.

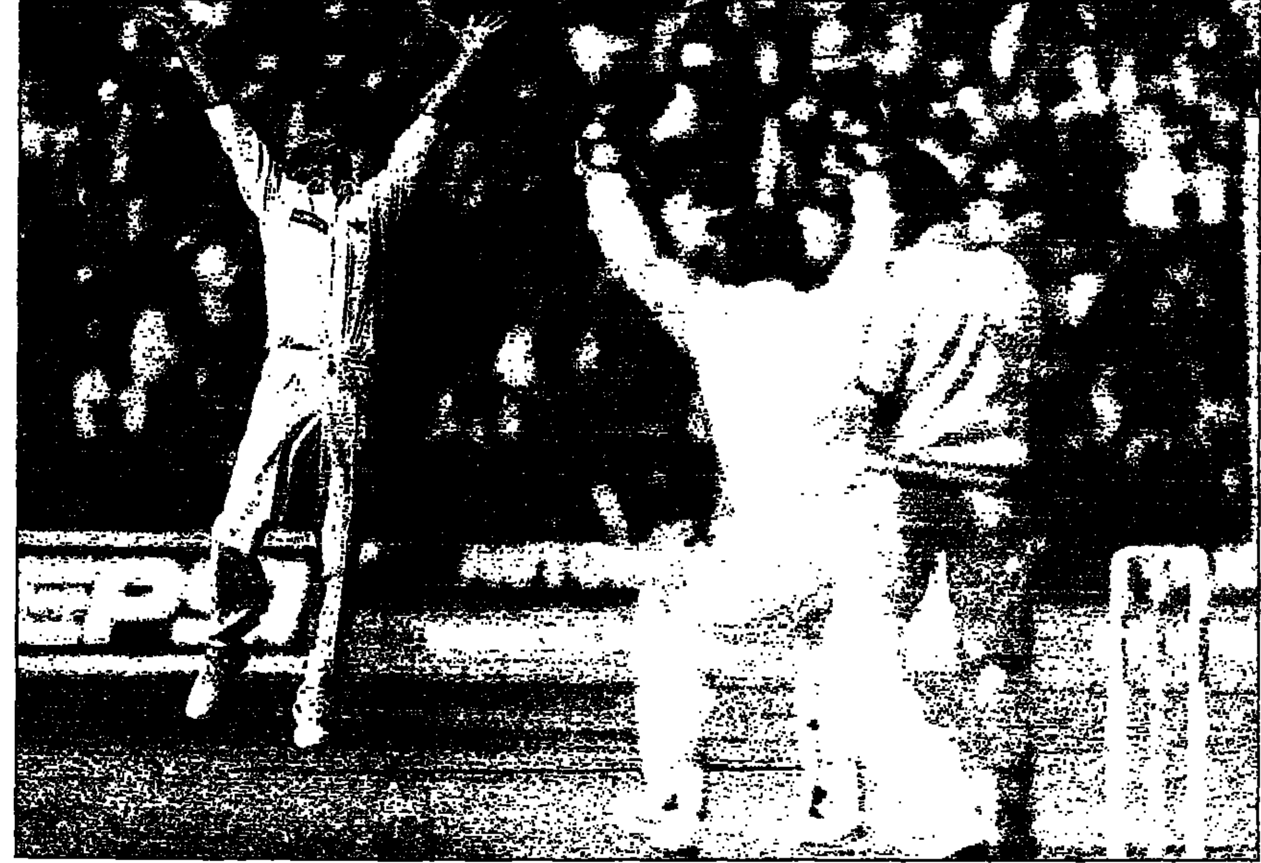
Mobile telephones were confiscated at the gate before Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister, had left the ground in the morning. Reports that he would meet the players, along with his decision to board the inaugural run of a bus service between Delhi and Lahore to improve diplomatic relations, had shared the front pages with speculation as to whether a certain batsman would recover from injury in time to play.

"Never have so many people been so worried about the health of Sachin Tendulkar," *The Times of India* said. He did, indeed, declare himself fit, but scored only six runs before falling to Saqlain Mushtaq for the third innings in succession. Saqlain bowled beautifully once again and can expect another congratulatory fax from Surrey.

He has so far taken five for 94 in 34.5 overs on a slow pitch where the danger, as at Madras, lies in variable bounce rather than lavish turn. Pakistan would be even better placed but for spilling four catches. Yet India should feel even more annoyed, because they failed to build on an opening stand of 88 from Ramesh and Laxman. Too many batsmen got out after playing themselves in and the initiative swung towards Pakistan when Ganguly and Azharuddin fell in successive overs to Mushtaq Ahmed late on.

Ramesh looks a useful find. An upright left-hander, he plays attractively through the off side and times the ball sweetly. His attempt to pull Saqlain from outside off stump, soon after completing a maiden Test half-century, represented a rare misjudgment. Tendulkar fell in Saqlain's next over, deceived by the flight of a full-length ball that he had attempted to paddle towards fine leg.

Azharuddin provided a few wristy strokes to complement the defence of Dravid during a fourth-wicket partnership of 69 before Dravid received one of the few deliveries from Saqlain that did turn appreciably. Wasim Akram declined to take the new ball and was rewarded when Ganguly fell trying to force Mushtaq to leg and Azharuddin, on 67, edged to slip. When Saqlain added the wickets of Kumble and Srinath, Pakistan could feel content with their day's work.


Saqlain makes no attempt to disguise his joy at the fall of Tendulkar, India's champion, trapped leg-before for six

SCOREBOARD FROM DELHI

INDIA: First Innings

S Ramesh b Saqlain	60
V V S Laxman b Wasim	35
R Dravid lbw b Saqlain	33
S R Tendulkar lbw b Saqlain	6
*M Azharuddin c Ijaz b Mushtaq Ahmed	67
S C Ganguly lbw b Mushtaq Ahmed	13
†N R Mongia not out	9
A Kumble c Yousuf b Saqlain	0
J Srinath lbw b Saqlain	0
Extras (b 11, lb 7, nb 6)	24
Total (8 wkts)	247

B K V Prasad and H Singh to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-88, 2-112, 3-122, 4-191, 5-231, 6-240, 7-243, 8-247.

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 12-3-25-1; Waqar Younis 13-5-[illegible]-0; Mushtaq Ahmed 26-5-64-2; Saqlain Mushtaq 34.5-8-94-5; Shahid Afridi 4-1-14-0.

PAKISTAN: Saeed Anwar, Shahid Afridi, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Salim Malik, †Moin Khan, *Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed.

Umpires: S A Bucknor (West Indies) and A V Jayaprakash.

England left weary by trivial pursuit

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SYDNEY

THANKFULLY, to the great relief of all the players, if not all the spectators, some of whom seem to like the kind of bloated, 50-over rubbish that masquerades as cricket, the triangular tournament involving Australia, England and Sri Lanka starts to wind up today.

England play their last group game at the Sydney Cricket Ground against Australia, who then meet Sri Lanka in Melbourne on Sunday. None of it matters. Australia and England will play three times in the final next week — if three games are necessary — in Sydney and, twice, in Melbourne. And that will be that, another competition done and dusted. None of these competitions matter a jot, except the World Cup, for which this shindig is a preliminary and unappetising skirmish.

This is the time of year when England players start thinking of green fields, wet afternoons and pints with foaming heads. They have played a Test series, carried their bodies through ten one-day games of no real importance and must now play at least three more when some of them — Gough and Stewart, for instance — are so exhausted that they hardly know where they are.

The International Cricket Council must sort this matter out — soon. There are far too many games of no consequence that purport to be proper fixtures. So Sri Lanka beat England on Wednesday night. So what? England will shortly go to Sharjah, together with Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan. Who cares, except the bookies?

There is too much cricket, too much bad cricket, and the people to suffer are the cricketers, who will be burnt out before their time. Unless, of course, they are called Wells and Alleyne, in which case they might think the development of the one-day game is a jolly good thing because it gives them a chance to say they "played for England".

Alleyne took three wickets in the bash the other night and Wells made a few runs, going in first. It will probably be the nearest that they get to representing England in the World Cup. It was not necessarily a mistake to bring them here — a team needs its supporting cast and they are "good pros" — but if you see Wells striding out to bat in May in a powder blue shirt and Alleyne trundling in to fill a few overs in mid-innings, it may be time to head for the hills.

Still, there are games left to win and England want to win them. Fairbrother is an injury doubt, hampered by a dodgy hamstring, and, as Mullally sat it out on Wednesday, it may be time to give Gough a rest this time. Australia intend to give McGrath a break, to keep him fresh, or fresher, for the best-of-three shoot-out.

The ground will be packed to the rafters for this game. Great will be the cheering. As Dame Nellie Melba used to say: "Give 'em muck."


Wells: supporting cast

LINKS

WEBSITE: www-uk.cricket.org/
TELEVISION: Sky Sports 2 (live).
☐ The Times one-day series hotline - 0891 881 461. Reports, updates. Calls cost 50p per minute.

Bell takes full toll of New Zealand attack

FROM JOHN STERN IN NEW PLYMOUTH

NEW PLYMOUTH (third day of four): New Zealand Under-19, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 344 runs to beat England Under-19

DESPITE another patchy batting display, England Under-19 compiled more than enough runs to ensure at least a draw in the first "Test" of the series against New Zealand.

The beacon in the England second-innings total of 290 was an excellent 91 by Ian Bell, just 16, of Warwickshire. He was watchful against the seamers and took advantage of anything short or wide from the spinners.

He looked firmly on course for a century until being run-out — when he slipped trying to make his ground at the non-striker's end after a cover drive by Michael Carberry.

Matt Bulbeck, a tall left-hander, whose forte is left-arm swing bowling, made 51 to bolster the England lead after a middle-order collapse. He and Mark Wallace added 48 for the final wicket. The New Zealand opening batsmen then survived the final ten overs before the close.

☐ If the pattern continues in Harare, England A might just finish off Zimbabwe A's first innings by the end of their five-day match (Thrasy Petropoulos writes). The rains returned yesterday, allowing only 19.3 overs of play on the third day, a marginal improvement on the 9.5 overs of day two but not quite the 23 overs of the first day. Zimbabwe A had reached 147 for seven by the premature close.

Scoreboards, page 49

Barnett ends innings

THE 20-year career of Kim Barnett with Derbyshire is over after the county and player parted company by mutual agreement.

In a brief statement, Derbyshire said Barnett had been released from his contract, which had two years to run, "with sincere regret". He asked to be released in November as the controversy surrounding the future of Dominic Cork as captain deepened. That issue has still to be resolved and an extraordinary general meeting will be held in March.

West Indies Cricket Board officials have demanded an inquest into their team's crushing Test and one-day defeats in South Africa. Clive Lloyd, the team manager, Malcolm Marshall, the coach, and Brian Lara, the captain, have been summoned to a meeting in Antigua next week.

RACING

Littmoden finds sand provides firm foundation

By Chris McGrath

THE man who built his house on sand has traditionally been prey to ridicule, but there is nothing remotely foolhardy in the way Nick Littmoden is laying down the foundations for his training career.

To jumping enthusiasts, Flat racing on the sand at Lingfield, Southwell and Wolverhampton is a numbing palliative to bad weather, but to Littmoden it has become the bedrock of ambitious plans for expansion. Not only is he the leading trainer on the all-weather this winter, with 20 winners, he has, so far, been based at the trackside barns at Wolverhampton. Now he is transferring the bulk of his 65 horses to the Newmarket stables vacated by the retirement of Julie Cecil.

At 36, he is raising the stakes with considerable bravura. "The move is about getting quality horses and owners," he said at Lingfield yesterday.

"In two years' time, I want to be pushing for major honours. I love all-weather racing, but don't want to get stuck in everyone's mind as the all-weather trainer. I started with three horses but always set out to achieve something. I want to win classics, I want to win championships. It's been a struggle, but maybe there's light at the end of the tunnel now."

If a mighty oak is indeed growing here, Littmoden will be forever indebted to one of those three little acorns. Cretan Gift cost just 1,350 guineas out of John Dunlop's yard and promptly split a pastern, but 18 months ago he hit the bull's-eye as Littmoden's first runner in a pattern race, winning a group three sprint at Leopardstown.



Littmoden: testing time

With that old eccentric, Tertium, winning Kempton's Jubilee Handicap last season and the likes of Baron De Pichon showing contrasting enthusiasm this winter, Littmoden has consolidated a reputation for finding the right niche for his horses. To him, getting the most out of a horse is a double challenge: it must be equal to each opportunity in terms of both ability and physical condition.

"I firmly believe there's a result in almost every horse," he said. "I'm quick to offer an opinion if I think a horse is without ability. I'd rather we found something better, but failing that I'd rather have an empty box. Once I find the right grade, though, it will stay with me for a long time. I'm a great believer in the importance of feed, and I do a lot of groundwork, take a long time getting them fit initially. Once they're there, they'll keep going."

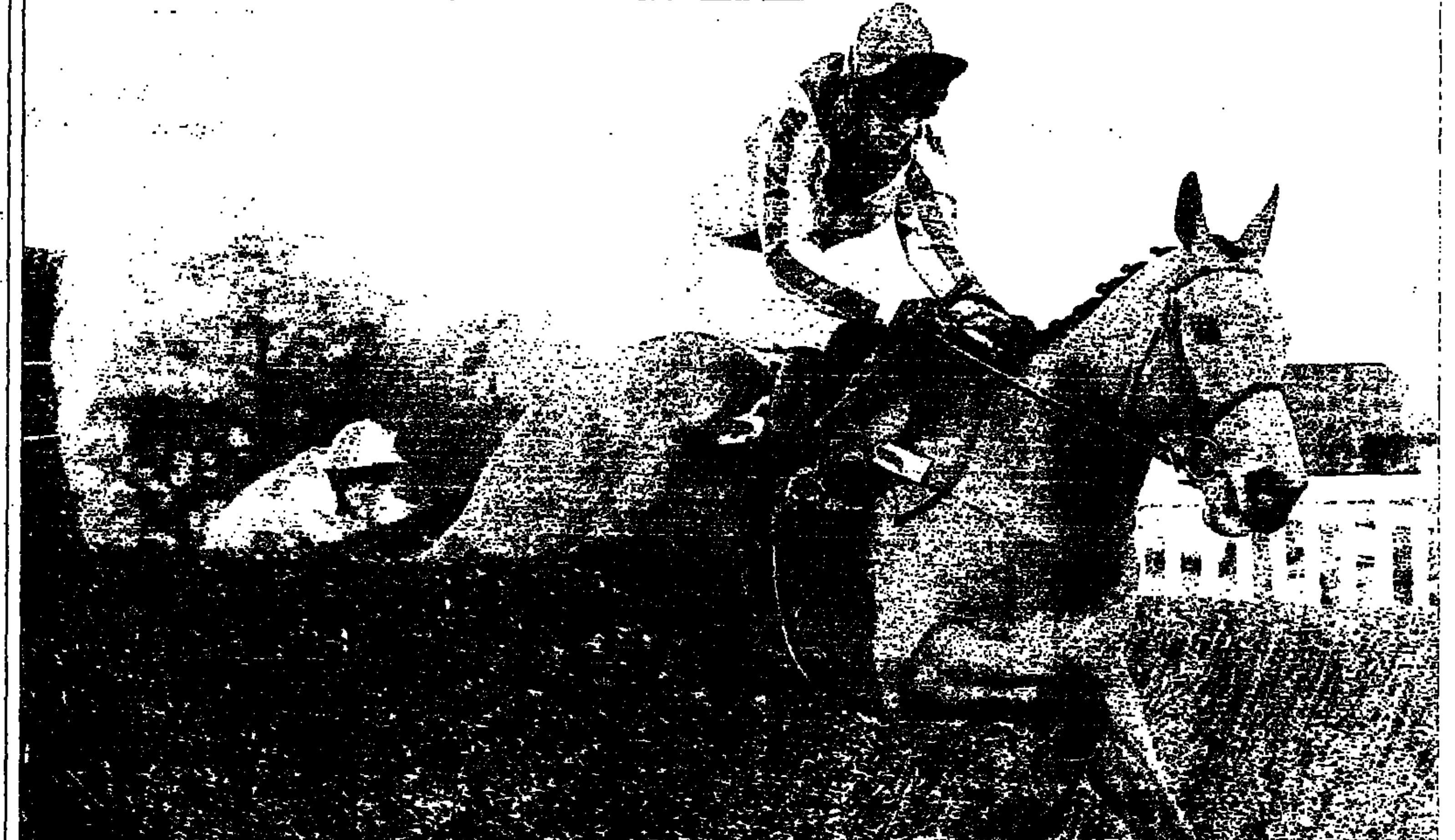
Similar durability is required of the trainer, a man sustained by abundant personal energies and self-belief. He feels a genuine sense of vocation, despite rather stumbled into the sport.

His grandmother sowed an early interest by taking him to Brighton races as a child, but it was only a chance meeting with Mick Masson, who trained at his native Lewes, that released a yawning bank clerk from his torments. "I'm quite an active person and was bored senseless," he said. "But I fell in love with the idea of training as soon as I started with Mick."

Having followed his own path with such assurance, principally through interval training and careful feeding, he is unlikely to lose his sense of direction in the open spaces of Newmarket Heath.

Nonetheless, he acknowledges a certain culture shock to be inevitable. "I've got my own ideas and I've already been scouting round the gallops for the right places to do things the way I have always done them. It's a major step, but I wouldn't want to look back in five years' time regretting I hadn't done it."

He concluded: "I'm expecting a real struggle this year, especially in this spring. But I believe in setting goals and I want to train 50 winners this year. I'd like to think I can compete in every grade."



Ramallah, ridden by Culloty, jumps clear of his rivals on his way to victory in the Tote Chase (Showcase Handicap) at Towcester yesterday

Ramallah recaptures winning form

By Our Racing Staff

HENRIETTA KNIGHT refused to take the credit for the turnaround in Ramallah's fortunes at Towcester yesterday. After three runs this year, reading "PPF", the ten-year-old gave his connections little cause for optimism going into the £10,000-added Tote Chase (Showcase Handicap).

But he improved on those performances to gain his fourth course and distance success at the expense of the 13-8 favourite, Rightsaidfred.

Having jumped to the front at the third last, the 7-1 winner clouted the penultimate obstacle and, although Rightsaidfred and Graham Bradley closed the gap after the last, there was still two lengths between the pair at the line, with a distance back to Wandering Light.

As Jim Culloty dismounted, the trainer handed the credit for the win to the bay's breeder and part-owner, Marie Steele. "Full marks to the owner for this," she said. "She chose the race, she walked the course and she wanted to run. I had my doubts because I thought it could be too sticky for him. I take no credit for this.

"But he does love Towcester and the horses are just returning to form. They weren't right about two months ago, but I feel they are back to themselves now."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Count Karmuski (4.00 Catterick)

Adrian Maguire has a good record for Ferdy Murphy and his recent course winner should appreciate today's longer trip.

Next best: Ackzo (2.00 Catterick)

Wandering Light's trainer, Henry Daly, saddled Cheerful Aspect to win the Corporate Bonding At The Races Novices' Chase. When the son of top sprinter Cadeaux Genereux was foaled at the Gainsborough Stud six years ago, it is unlikely his owners were thinking of this sort of race, as Daly observed.

After Cheerful Aspect had justified 6-4 favouritism by 13 lengths from Spring Double, the trainer said: "He is bred to get all of six furlongs. I don't think two miles and six in sticky ground at Towcester was what they had in mind."

Steve Gollings, Get The Point's trainer, suggested that his five-year-old was "bred to win a Derby". He didn't manage to trouble Benny The Dip at Epsom, but he proved more than a match for Colonel Hook in the Broadway Stampings Novices' Hurdle, in the process turning round Huntingdon running with the third-placed odds-on favourite, Radomsko.

It was a similar story for Ismeno. Sired by Ela-Mana-Mou out of a Seattle Slew mare, he came into the world in the care of Sheikh Mohammed's lavish breeding set-up. The top-weight lived up to his fine pedigree by comfortably beating Province in the Levy Board Handicap Hurdle on his first outing for David Elsworth.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Splendid Melody. 2.30 Wynbury Flyer. 3.00 Turnpole. 3.30 Springfield Scally. 4.00 Minster Glory. 4.30 Orleans.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.00 SPLENDID MELODY.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 EBF NH NOVICES HURDLE (QUALIFIER)

(£2,980: 2m 3f) (10 runners)

101 1-0531 SPLENDID MELODY 14 (S) (B Stewart-Brown) T Tate 5-11-5 ... R Garritty [illegible]
102 322 ACKZO 69 (BF) (P Atkinson) F Murphy 6-11-0 ... A Maguire 87
103 46-04 JOLLY MINSTER 36 (D Atkinson) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-0 ... G Lee 67
104 4U MEADOWBANK 11 (G Shoules) M W Easterby 5-11-0 ... Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 95
105 0-04 RIVER DOUGLAS 50 (G Turnbull Ltd) Mrs A Swinbank 7-11-0 ... Mr C Wilson —
106 60-000 ROCKY MY BOY 11 (J Henderson (Co Durham)) Mrs S Smith 5-11-0 ... R Wilkinson (5) 32
107 30-40 RODDERS 41 (R Metcalfe) J Glover 6-11-0 ... R Guest 40
108 SP-500 SCOTMAIL BOY 50 (G Brown & B Watson) J Howard Johnson 6-11-0 ... A Dobbin 57
109 0-3 STEELERS DREAM 13 (B Higgins) T Easterby 7-11-0 ... L Wyer —
110 00-03 MARTHA'S MOONSTONE 29 (Mrs L Timmon) J Charlton 5-10-9 ... B Storey —

BETTING: 10-11 Splendid Melody, 11-4 Ackzo, 8-1 Steelers Dream, 10-1 Meadowbank, 14-1 Jolly Minster, 20-1 Rodders, Martha's Moonstone, 33-1 others.

1998: JESSICA ONE 7-11-0 P Niven (7-4 fav) Mrs M Reveley 12 ran

FORM FOCUS: Splendid Melody beat Mr Busby 23l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 3f, heavy), previously 5½l 3rd of 11 to Tossco in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Ackzo neck 2nd of 17 to Sir Bob in novice hurdle at Newcastle (3m, good to soft), previously 6l 2nd of 18 to Scarlet Emperor in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Jolly Minster 13l 4th of 14 to Es Go in maiden hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Meadowbank unseated rider in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft), previously 19l 4th of 13 to Carbury Cross in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). River Douglas 20l 4th of 16 to Native Affair in national hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, good). Rocky My Boy 65l 7th of 9 to Samakaan in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft). Rodders 58l 9th of 11 to Springfield Scally in maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 25l 4th of 13 to Kingennie in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft) with Splendid Melody (5lb worse off) 28l 5th. Steelers Dream 21l 3rd of 17 to Ireland's Eye in maiden not hunt flat at Catterick (2m, soft). Martha's Moonstone 6l 3rd of 12 to Barton Bill in national hunt flat race at Catterick (2m, soft).

SPLENDID MELODY won very comfortably latest and boasts strong claims in this company

2.30 DINSDALE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,178: 2m 3f) (21 runners)

201 6-P404 DURANO 30 (B,S) (C Stevens) T Easterby 8-12-0 ... S Durack [illegible]
202 565241 BE BRAVE 13 (B,C,S) (Mrs S Parsons) T Etherington 9-11-13 ... O McPhail 76
203 P0600P KATIYMANN 50 (F,G,S) (P Campbell) B Ellison 7-11-9 ... E Husband 29
204 0-0510 CRABBIE'S PRIDE 29 (BF,CD,S) (Turks Head Racing) Mrs S Smith 6-11-9 R Wilkinson 88
205 0340- MOONSHINE DANCER 365 (C,G,S) (Aarons Archer) Mrs S Smith 9-11-8 D Elsworth (7) —
206 FF4-U0 NOBLE NORMAN 13 (G) (M Vernon) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-8 ... G Lee 51
207 23-405 KAKASHDA 13 (J Johnson) J Howard Johnson 8-11-8 ... N Horrocks 19
208 0153 JACK FLUSH 13 (CD,G) (D Smith) B Rothwell 5-11-5 ... T Siddall 17
209 45031 WYNBURY FLYER 35 (C,S) (Mrs G Seymour) F Murphy 4-11-3 ... I Jardine 80
210 6644-2 COURT JOKER 13 (G) (J Kennedy) H Alexander 7-11-2 ... L Cooper (4) 67
211 00411/ KARAYLAR 528F (F,G) (D Bailey) W Storey 7-11-1 ... R McGrath —
212 6P036P EDSTONE 11 (B) (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 7-11-0 ... T Hagger (4) 61
213 245P-5 DRUMDONNA 13 (Mrs M Beaumont) P Beaumont 9-10-13 ... B Grattan 74
214 46F0 PALISANDER 70 (D Teasdale) R Ford 5-10-12 ... X Aizpuru 73
215 6P-056 ONE STOP 21 (M Brennan) M Barnes 6-10-8 ... C McCormack 78
216 -55243 SEFTON BLAKE 36 (Mrs S Le Gros) M Meagher 5-10-4 ... J Magee 92
217 1PF0-P DON TOCINO 13 (G) (H Bell) T Carr 9-10-0 ... M H Naughton —
218 0PP0-P CHAN MOVE 39 (W Smith) W Smith 7-10-0 ... N Hannity —
219 0245P6 REAL FIRE 41 (F) (M Saunders) M Meagher 5-10-0 ... W Dowling 63
220 00/0U0 PACKITIN PARKY 28 (A A Packaging Ltd) D McCain 6-10-0 ... A C Coyle —
221 55000P EDDIE ROMBO 29 (S Birchall) R Woodhouse 4-10-0 ... M Gault (4) 37

Long handicap: Don Tocino 9-13, Chan Move 9-12, Real Fire 9-10, Packitin Parky 9-7, Eddie Rombo 9-5

BETTING: 5-1 Crabbie's Pride, 13-2 Be Brave, Wynbury Flyer, 7-1 Sefton Blake, 8-1 Jack Flush, 10-1 Durano, Court Joker, 12-1 others.

1998: RECRUITMENT 5-11-6 N Horrocks (11-2) J Turner 17 ran

FORM FOCUS: Durano 5½l 4th of 9 to Oversman in selling hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good). Be Brave beat Court Joker (7lb better off) 15l in 11-runner selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft) with Jack Flush (7lb better off) 17l 3rd, Drumdonna (7lb better off) 19l 5th, Kakashda (9lb better off) 19l 6th and Noble Norman (8lb better off) 31l 8th. Crabbie's Pride 17l 7th of 9 to Hunting Slane in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft). Moonshine Dancer 86l 10th of [illegible] Flat Top [illegible] in 9-runner amateur handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, soft). Wynbury Flyer beat King's Hussar neck in [illegible] to Cambo in selling handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good). Wynbury Flyer [illegible] previously 29l 3rd of 10 to Rapair in 3yo [illegible]-runner 4yo novice selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft), previously [illegible] juvenile novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy). Karaylar beat Palace River 5l in 16-runner selling handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, firm). Edstone pulled up in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft), previously [illegible] 6th of 13 to Kingennie in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft). One Stop 35l 6th of 12 to Forty Love in selling handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft). Sefton Blake 12l 3rd of 14 to Durano [illegible] in selling handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft), previously 11l 4th of 8 to Brancepeth Belle in novice claiming hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft) with Jack Flush (15lb worse off) 14l 5th. Real Fire 11l 5th of 10 to Oakbury in selling handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft).

BE BRAVE is consistent in this grade and can add to last month's Catterick gains off a 7lb higher mark

3.00 STAYERS NOVICES CHASE (£4,432: 3m 1f 110yd) (5 runners)

301 5-0PP5 HOWYOUDOING 35 (Mrs G Handley) S Kettlewell 9-11-4 ... S Taylor 60
302 6305-P MR WALT 104 (Mr & Mrs P Gaffney) J Jefferson 6-11-4 ... L Wyer —
303 6-53-20 TURNPOLE 48 (G,S) (Mr & Mrs W Williams) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-4 Mr A Dempsey (3) —
304 4-04P- TWEEDSWOOD 268 (J Yeadon) P Beaumont 9-11-4 ... R Supple 53
305 2-8422 SISTER GALE 28 (BF,G) (B Van Praagh) Mrs S Smith 7-10-13 ... Mr J Crowley (5) [illegible]

BETTING: [illegible] Turnpole, 2-1 Sister Gale, 33-1 Mr Walt, 50-1 Howyoudoing, Tweedswood.

1998: LORD FORTUNE 8-11-4 R Garritty (7-2) M Hammond 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Mr Walt pulled up in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 4f 110yd, heavy), previously 26l 5th of 12 to Gale Ahead in conditional novice hurdle at Hexham (3m, good). Turnpole 93l 8th of 11 to Princeful in hurdle grade 1 at Ascot (3m, good) [illegible] previously 6l 2nd of 7 to Juyush in hurdle grade 2 at Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). Tweedswood pulled up in novice handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm), previously 35l 4th of 8 to [illegible] in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good). Sister Gale 27l 2nd of 7 to Annie Buckers in [illegible] novice chase at Towcester (2m 6f, heavy), previously 3l 2nd of 15 to Tom's River in maiden chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with Howyoudoing (levels) 40l 5th.

TURNPOLE unseated on an earlier attempt over fences but should prevail with a clear round

3.30 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£5,641: 3m 1f 110yd) (17 runners)

401 621-3P ATTADALE 18 (D,F,G,S) (Low Flyers (Thoroughbreds) Ltd) A Dicken 11-11-10 A Dobbin 101
402 1123F3 CRABAPPLE HILL 125 (V,F,S) (Bookies Runner) B Ellison 7-11-9 C McCormack (3) 38
403 231130 RUSSIAN ASPECT 13 (C,G,S) (A Black) M W Easterby 5-11-6 Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 109
404 1-2264 MOLSUM 16 (S) (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 6-11-6 ... R Bellamy 97
405 2131-4 CASH BOX 50 (G,S) (Dr T Wadrop) T Carr 11-11-6 ... N Smith 78
406 P01013 SHARP COMMAND 8 (D,F,G,S) (A Holland & Mrs P Jones) P Eccles 6-11-5 A Maguire 100
407 3-21F1 ZAMHAREER 78 (F,G,S) (Paw Racing) R Ford 8-10-13 ... Mrs C Ford 91
408 114113 SPRINGFIELD SCALLY 16 (BF,G,S) (Mrs M Haig) S Gollings 6-10-9 ... S Durack 107
409 63-223 ARCTIC FOX 36 (BF,CD,G) (J Mitchell) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-8 ... P Niven 98
410 -36253 VILPRANO 50 (F,G) (Vilprano Partnership) D Moffatt 8-10-8 ... D J Moffatt 108
411 -42520 RADANPOUR 21 (B,G,S) (T Pollock) J Howard Johnson 7-10-7 ... A S Smith 90
412 463-RP DARU 3 (V,S) (Mrs J Hughes) R Hollinshead 10-10-5 ... Gary Lyons 95
413 P415/5 RASCALLY 35 (F,G) (J Townson) Mrs S Smith 9-10-3 ... Mr J Crowley (5) 72
414 -0223P SAUCY NUN 63 (CD,F,G) (P Hiatt) P Hiatt 7-10-0 ... E Husband 100
415 25-0F6 KINDA GROOVY 36 (B,F,G) (I Park) I Park 10-10-0 ... L O'Hara [illegible]
416 214432 HITCHHIKER 16 (D,G) (Miss J Slater) R Woodhouse 5-10-0 ... N Hannity (7) 105
417 00-P03 ALLERBECK 50 (Mrs J Lawson) J Goulding 9-10-0 ... L Cooper (7) 68

Long handicap: Saucy Nun 9-13, Kinda Groovy 9-12, Hitchhiker 9-10, Allerbeck 9-9

BETTING: 5-1 Arctic Fox, 6-1 Zamhareer, Springfield Scally, 8-1 Sharp Command, 9-1 Hitchhiker, 10-1 Russian Aspect, Vilprano, 12-1 Cash Box, Molsum, 14-1 others.

1998: ARCTIC FOX 6-10-8 P Niven (4-1 fav) Mrs M Reveley 11 ran

FORM FOCUS: Attadale pulled up in handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good), previously 18l 3rd of 6 to Cottstown Boy in handicap hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy). Crabapple Hill 6l 3rd of 8 to Nova Champ in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm). Russian Aspect 23l 7th of 15 to Just Lizzie in handicap hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft); previously 21l 3rd of 17 to Major Sponsor in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m 3f, good to soft). Molsum 14l 4th of 8 to Castle Owen in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft) with Daru (7lb better off) refused to race. Sharp Command beaten a distance 3rd of 5 to Double Thriller in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, soft); previously beat Arctic Fox (8lb worse off) neck in 22-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). Zamhareer beat Up And Over 8l in 13-runner amateur handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good to soft). Arctic Fox 10l 3rd of 14 to The Next Waltz in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Vilprano 7½l 3rd of 17 to Tilty in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good) with Cash Box (levels) 7½l 4th. Radanpour beaten a distance 7th of 10 to Torn Silk in novice chase at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft); previously 10l 2nd of 9 to Ballad Minstrel in novice chase at Catterick (2m, soft). Rascally 29l 5th of 14 to Flat Top in handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft) with Kinda Groovy (1lb better off) 30l 6th. Saucy Nun pulled up in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 7f, good), previously 6l 3rd of 8 to Palace Of Gold in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m 7f 110yd, good to soft). Hitchhiker 1½l 2nd of 13 to Ontheboil in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft) with Springfield Scally (6lb better off) 5½l 3rd. Allerbeck 8½l 3rd of 19 to Cash For Questions in novice hurdle at Catterick (3m 3f, good) with Springfield Scally (4lb worse off) 10l 4th.

VILPRANO lines up in good form and will be keeping on when others have cried enough

4.00 MARNE HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,224: 2m 3f) (9 runners)

501 23-33F WEAVER GEORGE 30 (BF,CD,F,G,S) (Regent Decorators) W Storey 9-11-10 R McGrath 90
502 -2F5F1 COUNT KARMUSKI 35 (C,S) (P Atkinson) F Murphy 7-10-10 ... A Maguire 120
503 6-0PP0 BRAMBLEBERRY 29 (F,G,S) (Hampers Racing) Mrs S Smith 10-10-9 Mr J Crowley (5) 115
504 0-3016 LA RIVIERA 29 (CD,F,G) (J Hogg) J Charlton 7-10-6 ... B Storey 118
505 320355 TAPATCH 50 (B,F,G) (Miss V Foster) M W Easterby 11-10-4 ... L Wyer 120
506 54-122 MINSTER GLORY 50 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs P Hartley) M W Easterby 8-10-3 C McCormack (3) [125]
507 P41F33 MOSS PAGEANT 20 (G,S) (Mrs F Walton) J Walton 9-10-2 ... D Parker 120
508 -66602 JOE SHAW 13 (G) (F Gillespie) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-1 ... G Lee 107
509 604-U0 MARLINGFORD 29 (CD,F,S) (Mrs J Brennan) Mrs J Jordan 12-10-0 N Hannity (7) 65

Long handicap: Marlingford 8-12

BETTING: 7-2 Minster Glory, 4-1 Count Karmuski, 5-1 La Riviera, 6-1 Weaver George, Moss Pageant, 13-2 Joe Shaw, 8-1 Tapatch, 20-1 others.

1998: NELTEGRITY 9-10-5 W Marston (3-1) Mrs P Sly 5 ran

FORM FOCUS: Weaver George fell in handicap chase at Musselburgh (3m, good), previously 17l 3rd of 6 to Eliesprey in handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Count Karmuski beat Damza 1½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft) with Moss Pageant (4lb better off) 3½l 3rd. La Riviera 37l 6th of 11 to Galen in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft) with Brambleberry (7lb better off) 46l 7th and Marlingford (6lb worse off) 97l 9th. Minster Glory 2½l 2nd of 7 to Damza in handicap chase at Catterick (2m, good) with Tapatch (3lb better off) 9½l 5th and Count Karmuski (4lb worse off) fell. Moss Pageant 17l 3rd of 7 to Danbys Gorse in handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy). Joe Shaw 1½l 2nd of 10 to Castletown Count in novice handicap chase at Catterick (2m 3f, soft), previously beaten a distance 7th of 11 to River Don in novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft).

WEAVER GEORGE can make amends having let favourite backers down when falling mid-race latest

4.30 HARTLEPOOL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £2,430: 2m) (18 runners)

601 3 BARRELBIO 20 (Mrs J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 10-12 ... R McGrath 62
602 406 CHRISTIANSTED 82 (J Duddy) F Murphy 10-12 ... A Maguire —
603 6034P CROSBY DON 34 (D Raper) E Weymes 10-12 ... A Dobbin 77
604 DELAYED REACTION 196F (A Milner) M Sowersby 10-12 ... B Storey —
605 602 DISCO TEX 53 (B,BF) (Mybank Racing) M W Easterby 10-12 ... Mr K R O'Ryan (7) 73
606 FRED'S IN THE KNOW 582F (N Waggott) N Waggott 10-12 ... B Harding —
607 GHALI 113F (J Coupland) J Coupland 10-12 ... K Johnson —
608 0 JACK REEF 15 (L Morgan) D McCain 10-12 ... A C Coyle (5) —
609 42 KING'S HUSSAR 35 (V) (White Hart In Hawes) G M Moore 10-12 ... N Hannity (7) [illegible]
610 5 KONKER 84 (J & M Leisure / Unos Restaurant) G M Moore 10-12 ... J Callaghan 61
611 42355 MAAZOOM 63 (Newland Paint Partnership) M Sowersby 10-12 ... A S Smith 54
612 00 MADMAN'S MIRAGE 14 (V Thompson) V Thompson 10-12 ... Mr M Thompson —
613 0 ORLEANS 114 (Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 10-12 ... R Garritty —
614 22 ROVERETTO 38 (Cotton Trust Company Ltd) Mrs M Reveley 10-12 ... P Niven 84
615 GOLDENGIRLMICHELLE 129F (Oak Wood Racing) F Murphy 10-7 ... I Jardine (7) —
616 MINSTER MOORGATE 448F (C Wilmot-Smith) M W Easterby 10-7 ... C McCormack (3) —
617 MY BET 219F (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 10-7 ... O McPhail (5) —
618 SCOLD 222F (A McArdle) G Kelly 10-7 ... Mark Smith (7) —

BETTING: 11-4 Roveretto, 4-1 Konker, 5-1 Barrelbio, 6-1 King's Hussar, 10-1 Disco Tex, 12-1 Maazoom, 14-1 Christiansted, Delayed Reaction, 16-1 others.

1998: COUNT TONY 11-5 R Garritty (4-5 fav) M Hammond 10 ran

FORM FOCUS: Barrelbio 11l 3rd of 8 to Dangerman in 4yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy). Christiansted 38l 6th of 10 to Golden Rule in 3yo maiden hurdle at Navan (2m, heavy), previously 37l 8th of 15 to Nice Guy in 3yo maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m, good to soft). Crosby Don pulled up in 4yo novice hurdle at Ayr (2m 4f, heavy), previously 18l 4th of 8 to Hunt Hill in 3yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft) with Konker (2lb worse off) 23l 5th. Disco Tex 13l 2nd of 10 to Rapair in 3yo juvenile novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy) with King's Hussar (levels) 30l 4th. Jack Reef 51l 11th of 16 to Brilliant Star in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m, soft). King's Hussar neck 2nd of 13 to Wynbury Flyer in 4yo novice selling hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to soft). Konker 23l 5th of 8 to Hunt Hill in 3yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, good to soft). Maazoom 18l 5th of 11 to Premium Quest in 3yo novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 29l 5th of 8 to Charlie's Gold in 3yo novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, soft). Orleans 49l 11th of 14 to Simply Gifted in 3yo novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). Roveretto 9l 2nd of 13 to Albrighton in 3yo novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to firm), previously 2l 2nd of 12 to Free in 3yo novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, good to firm).

ROVERETTO finished clear of the remainder when runner-up last time and may now go one better

SPECIALISTS

LINGFIELD PARK: TRAINERS: R O'Sullivan, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; M Pipe, 15 from 54, 27.8%; G L Moore, 11 from 45, 24.4%; P Hobbs, 4 from 20, 20.0%; T Casey, 3 from 18, 16.7%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: A McCoy, 14 winners from 43 rides, 32.6%; R Dunwoody, 10 from 35, 28.6%; M Fitzgerald, 8 from 38, 21.1%; M Batchelor, 4 from 26, 15.4%; P Hide, 5 from 35, 14.3%; N Williamson, 6 from 44, 13.6%; C Llewellyn, 5 from 37, 13.5%.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
T Easterby	12	48	25.0	P Niven	24	90	26.7
Mrs M Reveley	23	105	21.9	R Garritty	14	64	21.9
Mrs A Swinbank	5	23	21.7	R Guest	12	59	20.3
J Charlton	7	44	15.9	N Hannity	3	18	16.7
B Rothwell	5	32	15.6	L Wyer	11	68	16.2
G M Moore	10	69	14.5	N Horrocks	7	45	15.6
J Jefferson	3	21	14.3	R Supple	11	78	14.1
W Storey	5	36	13.9	A S Smith	11	89	12.4
Mrs S Smith	12	96	12.5	J Callaghan	7	61	11.5
F Murphy	7	58	12.1	G Lee	6	67	9.0

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: **Catterick:** 3.30 Crabapple Hill. 4.30 Disco Tex. **Lingfield Park:** 1.40 Battleship Bruce. **Southwell:** 1.20 Antarctic Storm, Mercury, Tierra Del Fuego.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Towcester

Going: chases: soft, hurdles: soft with heavy patches

1.40 (2m 5f hdle) 1, **Our Slimbridge** (D McPhail, 11-2); 2, Amillionmemories (15-2); 3, Mr Christie (14-1). Claireswan (5th) 4-1 fav. 14 ran. NR: Adib, Trakelor. 12l, 9l. A Carroll. Tote: £9.30; £3.60, £2.00, £4.40. DF: £37.90. CSF: £46.00. Tricast: £524.42.

2.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Ramallah** (J Culloty, 7-1); 2, Rightsaidfred (13-8 fav); 3, Wandering Light (5-2). 10 ran. 2l, dist. Miss H Knight. Tote: £7.80; £1.70, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £13.30. Tote Trifecta: £109.50. CSF: £17.86. Tricast: £35.11.

2.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Get The Point** (D Gallagher, 9-1); 2, Colonel Hook (14-1); 3, Radomsko (4-5 fav). 10 ran. 22l, 2½l. S Gollings. Tote: £10.70; £2.30, £2.60, £1.10. DF: £46.70. CSF: £112.22.

3.10 (2m 6f ch) 1, **Cheerful Aspect** (R Johnson, 6-4 fav); 2, Spring Double (5-2); 3, Browjoshy (11-2). 8 ran. NR: Mr Edgar. 13l, 9l. H Daly. Tote: £2.30; £1.40, £1.10, £2.00. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.32.

3.40 (2m hdle) 1, **Ismeno** (P Holley, 11-2); 2, Province (6-1); 3, Cap It If You Can (3-1 jt-fav). Ambidextrous 3-1 jt-fav. 9 ran. 13l, 12l. D Elsworth. Tote: £6.40; £2.00, £1.50, £1.30. DF: £14.90. CSF: £35.71. Tricast: £107.44.

4.10 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Rovestar** (R Farrant, 3-1); 2, Quango (3-1); 3, Beyond Our Reach (7-4 fav). 5 ran. 6l, 1¼l. C Popham. Tote: £4.00; £1.90, £1.80. DF: £4.90. CSF: £11.00.

4.40 (2m flat) 1, **The Hill Has Moved** (R Dunwoody, 6-4 fav); 2, Linnan (4-1); 3, Began Again (16-1). 14 ran. NR: Flores. ¾l, 2l. P Hobbs. Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £2.30, £3.00. DF: £9.20. CSF: £7.45.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,741.45 carried forward to Catterick today).
Placepot: £27.20. Quadpot: £3.80.

Kelso

Going: soft

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Knockara Fair** (B Storey, 1-3 fav); 2, Scraptastic (33-1); 3, Sillymore (4-1). 12 ran. NR: Colmarann, Kimothy. 9l, 2l. J Charlton. Tote: £1.30; £1.00, £2.40, £2.30. DF: £14.00. CSF: £23.16.

2.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Radiation** (R McGrath, 4-6 fav); 2, Castle Red (14-1); 3, Queens Brigade (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Ardent Scout. 2½l, 24l. J O'Neill. Tote: £1.70; £1.20, £1.80. DF: £7.80. CSF: £9.05.

3.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, **Optimistic Chris** (J Goldstein, 6-1); 2, Brano (9-4); 3, Uniform (11-10 fav). 6 ran. 8l, 6l. A Streeter. Tote: £7.80; £4.30, £1.40. DF: £13.70. CSF: £16.04.

3.30 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, **Davy Blake** (A S Smith, 5-1); 2, Swanbister (2-1 fav); 3, Tough Test (7-2). 5 ran. NR: Better Times Ahead, Brambleberry. 11l, 4l. T Dalgetty. Tote: £5.70; £2.40, £1.50. DF: £4.90. CSF: £11.23. Better Times Ahead (6-1) was withdrawn not under starter's orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 10p in the pound.

4.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, **Kilbue King** (A Dobbin, 11-4); 2, Grooving (9-4 fav); 3, Gospel Song (4-1). 11 ran. 10l, 3l. P Monteith. Tote: £5.80; £2.20, £1.60, £1.60. DF: £8.10. CSF: £8.70. Tricast: £21.73.

4.30 (3m 1f ch) 1, **Andy Burnett** (Mr B Gibson, 5-1); 2, Cool Rule (16-1); 3, Craig Burn (7-1). Young Steven (6th) 7-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Makin Doo. Nk, 21l. Miss Sandra Forster. Tote: £4.50; £2.10, £3.30, £1.90. DF: £48.60. CSF: £77.57.

Placepot: £62.30. Quadpot: £29.50.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.50 (5f) 1, **Squire Corrie** (A Culhane, 11-2); 2, Rise 'n Shine (13-1); 3, Hall Tone (100-30 jt-fav). Dance Times 100-30 jt-fav. 10 ran. 1½l, ½l. D Chapman. Tote: £7.40; £2.00, £2.60, £1.80. DF: £24.80. CSF: £57.23. Tricast: £201.55.

2.20 (7f) 1, **Alamein** (Alex Greaves, 13-8 fav); 2, Pericles (12-1); 3, Speedy Classic (5-2). 14 ran. Sh hd, sht. D Nicholls. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, Speedy Classic £1.90, Pericles £2.30. DF: Alamein, Speedy Classic £2.60; Alamein, Pericles £9.50. CSF: Alamein, Speedy Classic £2.99; Alamein, Pericles £12.99.

2.50 (1m 2f) 1, **Kennet** (J Quinn, 6-1); 2, Baapi (5-2); 3, Sama (20-1). Mansa Musa (6th) 15-8 fav. 8 ran. 10l, 1¼l. P Cundell. Tote: £6.90; £2.20, £1.10, £4.60. DF: £7.60. CSF: £19.17.

3.20 (1m) 1, **Italian Symphony** (C Cogan, 7-1); 2, Flying Officer (8-15 fav); 3, Steamroller Stanly (8-1). 5 ran. 1½l, 5l. P Evans. Tote: £4.90; £3.50, £1.10. DF: £1.90. CSF: £10.61.

3.50 (1m 2f) 1, **Totom** (W Ryan, 15-8 fav); 2, Kings Arrow (9-2); 3, Bold Oriental (12-1). 6 ran. NR: Pas de Danse. 3l, 5l. J Fanshawe. Tote: £2.40; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £5.00. CSF: £10.23.

4.20 (7f) 1, **Done And Dusted** (F Norton, 10-1); 2, Diamond Geezer (6-1); 3, Trina's Pet (20-1). Bratby (5th) 13-8 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. R Bichmore. Tote: £13.30; £3.80, £3.10, £4.30. DF: £47.10. CSF: £65.85. Tricast: £1,131.86.

Placepot: £21.00. Quadpot: £9.00.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.40 Summer Flower. 2.10 Lord Of Love. 2.40 Majadou. 3.10 Devonshire. 3.40 Raqib. 4.10 Heros Fatal. 4.40 Tickerty's Gift.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

1.40 WORTH WOOD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,688: 2m 110yd) (16 runners)

1 4124 INCLINATION 7 (S) Mrs L Jewell 5-11-10 ... A P McCoy 73
2 3120 ROUND ROBIN 8 (B,D,S) Mrs Johnson 5-11-7 ... J A McCarthy [illegible]
3 0525 SUMMER FLOWER 7 (D,S) Miss Davison 9-11-3 ... D Gallagher 79
4 0-0R SPRINTFAYRE 222 (D,F,G,S) J Long 11-11-3 ... B Powell 63
5 P053 RED BROOK LAD 30 S Dow 4-11-2 ... M A Fitzgerald 42
6 6415 PARK ROYAL 21 (BF,CD,S) P Butler 4-11-0 ... T J Murphy 78
7 330 GHOST PATH 18 R O'Sullivan 4-10-10 ... L Harvey 57
8 4036 GALLOPING GUNS 15 (G) B Llewellyn 7-10-8 ... Michael Brennan 63
9 526 BOW BELLS 16 J Joseph 4-10-6 ... J Goldstein (5) 60
10 PP0- MOORLANDMERRYMAKER 332 D Gandolfo 9-10-6 S Wynne —
11 3P-0 BATTLESHIP BRUCE 50 (V) B Llewellyn 7-10-4 Miss E Jones —
12 SP-P SAND CAY 13F Miss G Kelleway 5-10-3 ... R Johnson —
13 0R0/ AYDISUN 779 R Curtis 7-10-2 ... J Leech —
14 5-00 GOLDEN FAWN 23 M Haynes 6-10-1 ... C Llewellyn 57
15 PP-5 ON THE CARDS 15 R Buckler 6-10-0 ... D O'Sullivan (7) 35
16 -0FP LILLY THE FILLY 9 Mrs B Waring 8-10-0 ... E Byrne —

4-1 Park Royal, 9-2 Round Robin, 5-1 Red Brook Lad, 13-2 Inclination, 7-1 Summer Flower, 10-1 Golden Fawn, 12-1 Ghost Path, Galloping Guns, Sand Cay, 14-1 others.

2.10 ASHURST HURDLE (4-Y-O £2,108 2m 3f) (3)

1 6213 LEGEND OF LOVE 4F (S) B Llewellyn 11-3 ... R Johnson 76
2 1022 LORD OF LOVE 10 (S) D Williams 11-3 ... B Clifford [illegible]
3 51 PAGASONIC 10 (S) G L Moore 11-3 ... P Hide 79

5-4 Pagasonic, 2-1 Lord Of Love, 9-4 Legend Of Love.

2.40 ADVENTURE NOVICES CHASE (£3,488, 2m) (4)

1 0-11 MAJADOU 9 (CD,S) M Pipe 5-11-5 ... A P McCoy [144]
2 0-0P ARTIC MIST 52 D O'Brien 8-11-2 ... P Hide —
3 0F60 BARTHOLOMEW FAIR 25 (D,F,S) C Dwyer 8-11-2 R Farrant —
4 10/P ROSENCRANTZ 48 (D,G) Miss Williams 7-11-2 N Williamson —

1-7 Majadou, 5-1 Rosencrantz, 25-1 Bartholomew Fair, 100-1 Artic Mist.

3.10 HEDDON NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,815: 2m 3f 110yd) (6)

1 -231 DEVONSHIRE 29 (D,S) Miss V Williams 6-11-10 ... R Dunwoody 92
2 -344 QUEEN'S RIDE 50 H Daly 6-11-1 ... Mr R Fehily (7) 87
3 -000 CHIEF PREDATOR 10 (F,S) D Williams 5-10-10 R Johnson [illegible]
4 -550 FARRAH'S DARLING 82 P Eccles 5-10-4 ... D Byrne —
5 5020 ILLUMINATE 23 D O'Brien 6-10-1 ... J Culloty 104
6 3P43 BRONHALLOW 84 Mrs B Waring 6-10-0 ... E Byrne 77

4-5 Devonshire, 5-1 Queen's Ride, Illuminate, 8-1 Bronhallow, 12-1 Farrah's Darling, 16-1 Chief Predator.

3.40 FELCOURT HANDICAP CHASE (£3,539: 3m) (4)

1 -P21 MAJORS LEGACY 28 (D,S) H Daly 10-11-10 ... R Johnson 116
2 045U EASTHORPE 25 (B,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 11-11-9 ... M A Fitzgerald 107
3 4144 ANOTHER DEADLY 18 (C,D,S) T Casey 12-10-12 ... T J Murphy 96
4 131U RAQIB 49 (BF,F,G,S) P Ritchens 8-10-9 ... D Gallagher [120]

10-11 Majors Legacy, 5-2 Raqib, 5-1 Easthorpe, 7-1 Another Deadly.

4.10 HOLTYE MAIDEN HURDLE

(£1,905: 2m 110yd) (9)

1 -0PP CHURCH FIELD 64 (B) C Popham 7-11-6 ... R Farrant —
2 22 EDAN HEIGHTS 45 T Casey 7-11-6 ... W Marston 95
3 0/U GET TOUGH 22 E Wheeler 6-11-6 ... C Webb —
4 12/0 GUIDO 94 (G) Miss V Williams 8-11-6 ... N Williamson 47
5 24 HEROS FATAL 18 (BF) M Pipe 5-11-6 ... A P McCoy [illegible]
6 P50/ LORD EGROSS 635P P Eccles 7-11-6 ... Mr R B Ross —
7 3 WESTFIELD COCKNEY 205 R Phillips 6-11-6 ... J Osborne —
8 EKO DEAUVILLE 97F P Hobbs 4-10-10 ... R Dunwoody —
9 KAID 143F Mrs B Waring 4-10-10 ... E Byrne —

2-1 Heros Fatal, 9-4 Edan Heights, 3-1 Eko Deauville, 7-1 Westfield Cockney, 8-1 Guido, 50-1 Church Field, Lord Egross, Kaid, 66-1 Get Tough.

4.40 H.B.L.B. EDENBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,192: 2m 3f 110yd) (5)

1 1234 TICKERTY'S GIFT 4 (BF,CD,F,G,S) G L Moore 9-12-0 ... M Batchelor (5) 103
2 0311 SHOOFK 7 (C,S) S Dow 8-11-12 (6ex) ... M A Fitzgerald 96
3 3113 MUSICAL SLING 27 (G,S) P Hobbs 6-11-9 ... R Dunwoody 101
4 -404 FOUNTAIN BID 49 (G) R Dean 7-10-0 ... Mr R Fehily (7) [illegible]
5 5-00 EQUITY'S DARLING 52 (B,S) D O'Brien 7-10-0 ... C Llewellyn 104

7-4 Tickerty's Gift, 9-4 Musical Sling, Shoofk, 8-1 Fountain Bid, 50-1 Equity's Darling.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

1.20 Killarney Jazz. 1.50 Arthurs Kingdom. 2.20 Rambo Waltzer. 2.50 Bratby. 3.20 TOM TUN (nap). 3.50 Pickens. 4.20 Powder River.

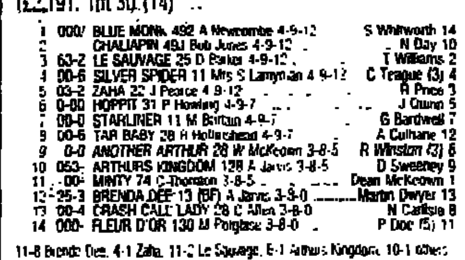
GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.20 LANGFORD APPRENTICES CLAIMING STAKES

(Div I: £1,623: 1m) (9 runners)

1 5434 KILLARNEY JAZZ 9 (B,CD) N Littmoden 4-9-4 R Thomas (5) 8
2 42/0 BRANDON MAGIC 25 (G,S) D Nicholls 6-9-1 ... P Clarke 6
3 450- ANTARCTIC STORM 45 (V,S) R Fahey 6-8-12 P Hanagan (7) 5
4 060- BE VALIANT 66 (G) Miss N Macauley 5-9-9 ... G Hannon 9
5 00-6 EASTLEIGH 23 (C,D,S) R Hollinshead 10-8-6 Lisa Watson (7) 2
6 0-50 CHALUZ 7 (CD) K Burke 5-8-3 ... D Williams 3
7 0-00 LIFT BOY 15 (F,G) P Burgoyne 10-8-3 ... P Cleary (5) 7
8 00-0 MERCURY 30 (V,CD) B Baugh 6-8-3 ... J Bosley (5) 4
9 00-0 TIERRA DEL FUEGO 35 (V) H Collingridge 5-7-12 P M Quinn 1

7-4 Killarney Jazz, 7-2 Chaluz, 9-2 Antarctic Storm, 6-1 Brandon Magic, 8-1 Be Valiant, 10-1 Lift Boy, 20-1 Mercury, 33-1 others.



1.50 OLD CLIPSTONE MAIDEN STAKES

(£2,191: 1m 3f) (14)

1 000/ BLUE MONK 492 A Newcombe 4-9-12 ... S Whitworth 14
2 CHALIAPIN 49J Bob Jones 4-9-12 ... N Day 10
3 63-2 LE SAUVAGE 25 D Barker 4-9-12 ... T Williams 2
4 00-6 SILVER SPIDER 11 Mrs S Lamyman 4-9-12 C Teague (3) 4
5 03-2 ZAHA 22 J Pearce 4-9-12 ... R Price 3
6 0-00 HOPPIT 31 P Howling 4-9-7 ... J Quinn 5
7 00-0 STARLINER 11 M Brittain 4-9-7 ... G Bardwell 7
8 00-6 TAR BABY 28 R Hollinshead 4-9-7 ... A Culhane 12
9 0-0 ANOTHER ARTHUR 28 W McKeown 3-8-5 R Winston (3) 6
10 053- ARTHURS KINGDOM 128 A Jarvis 3-8-5 ... D Sweeney 9
11 -00- MINTY 74 C Thornton 3-8-5 ... Dean McKeown 1
12 -25-3 BRENDA DEE 13 (BF) A Jarvis 3-8-0 ... Martin Dwyer 13
13 00-4 CRASH CALL LADY 28 C Allen 3-8-0 ... N Carlisle 8
14 000- FLEUR D'OR 130 M Polglase 3-8-0 ... P Doe (5) 11

11-8 Brenda Dee, 4-1 Zaha, 11-2 Le Sauvage, 6-1 Arthurs Kingdom, 10-1 others.

2.20 LANGFORD APPRENTICES CLAIMING STAKES

(Div II: £1,619: 1m) (9)

1 51-3 RAMBO WALTZER 34 (BF,CD,F,G,S) D Nicholls 7-9-7 P Clarke 7
2 -215 BURNING 13 (D,F) N Littmoden 7-9-4 ... R Thomas (5) 2
3 00-0 MOONRAKING 25 (B,CD) T Etherington 6-9-1 J Savage (5) 4
4 240- LYNTON LAD 567 (G) E Alston 7-8-12 Melanie Worden (7) 1
5 5045 AWESOME VENTURE 4 (CD) M Chapman 9-8-9 L Gueller (7) 6
6 0-00 I'M TEF 7 (C) T Easterby 4-8-6 ... S Finnamore (3) 8
7 000- LAKE ARIA 98 J Eyre 6-6-4 ... D Young (7) 3
8 400- SASEEDO 155J (F,G,S) K Morgan 9-8-3 ... P Fitzsimons 5
9 004- FORMER LOVE 35J T Donnelly 4-8-1 ... P Hanagan (7) 9

5-4 Rambo Waltzer, 7-2 Burning, 6-1 Moonraking, 8-1 Former Love, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss S Wilton, 10 winners from 34 runners, 29.4%; D Carroll, 3 from 14, 21.4%; M Johnston, 42 from 212, 19.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 15 from 85, 17.6%; T Barron, 23 from 141, 16.3%. JOCKEYS: R FitzPatrick, 7 winners from 19 rides, 36.8%; G Hannon, 3 from 10, 30.0%; N Day, 8 from 32, 25.0%; N Pollard, 6 from 26, 23.1%; M Tebbutt, 12 from 74, 16.2%.

2.50 KELHAM HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,775: 1m) (10)

1 230- JAMES DEE 142 A Jarvis 9-7 ... D Sweeney 6
2 116- VALE OF LEVEN 80 (BF,C,S) F Ryan 9-2 ... A Culhane 2
3 6-61 BAMBOO GARDEN 4 (B,CD) G Chung 9-0 (6ex) M Tebbutt 1
4 00-6 SWEET COMPLIANCE 13 (S) P Shakespeare 8-13 N Pollard (3) 7
5 00-1 RAYWARE BOY 32 (B,CD) D Shaw 8-12 ... J Quinn 9
6 06-1 PIP'S BRAVE 7 (CD) M Polglase 8-13 (6ex) ... R Lappin 8
7 20-2 NATHAN'S HERO 32 (BF) R Hollinshead 8-10 Dean McKeown 5
8 00-0 ABLE PETE 23 D Cosgrove 8-6 ... T Williams 10
9 0-15 BRATBY 1 (D,BF) M Bell 7-10 ... A Beech (7) 4
10 0-34 MISS DOODYBUSINESS 16 C Thornton 7-10 ... P Doe (5) 3

11-4 Bratby, 7-2 Rayware Boy, 5-1 Pip's Brave, 7-1 Vale Of Leven, 8-1 Bamboo Garden, 10-1 Nathan's Hero, Miss Doodybusiness, 12-1 others.

3.20 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (FINAL) (£9,849: 6f) (16)

1 05-0 DOUBLE-O 18 (B,CD) W Jarvis 5-10-0 ... D McGaffin (7) 5
2 2-05 ZIGGY'S DANCER 18 (CD,F,G) E Alston 8-9-12 ... J Quinn 13
3 6111 TAKHLID 3 (C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-12 (6ex) S Copp (5) 9
4 0400 BEST QUEST 11 (G) K Burke 4-9-9 ... N Callan (5) 7
5 2302 MALLIA 4 (B,CD,F,G,S) T Barron 6-9-9 ... O Pears 6
6 4314 ELTON LEDGER 4 (V,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 10-9-9 (6ex) ... P McCabe 10
7 32-5 ELLWAY PRINCE 28 (V,D) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-6 ... Dean McKeown 4
8 3116 THEATRE MAGIC 11 (CD) D Shaw 6-9-6 ... N Pollard (3) 14
9 3-02 OCKER 11 (BF,D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-6 ... R Price 16
10 00-0 PRIX STAR 18 (V,S) C Fairhurst 4-9-6 ... C Lowther 12
11 -003 REDOUBTABLE 3 (BF,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-9-6 A Culhane 15
12 -130 JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC 22 (D) M Johnston 4-9-5 ... J Fanning 1
13 10-1 TOM TUN 28 (CD,F) Miss J Craze 4-9-4 ... T Williams 8
14 40-4 EURO VENTURE 18 (D) D Nicholls 4-9-3 ... P Doe (5) 11
15 0-20 YOUNG BIGWIG 11 (B,D,F,S) D Chapman 5-9-1 ... L Charnock 2
16 06-0 PLEADING 28 (D,F,S) W Musson 6-9-0 ... R Cochrane 3

5-1 Ocker, 7-1 Euro Venture, Tom Tun, 8-1 Pleading, John Bowdler Music, 10-1 Theatre Magic, 12-1 Mallia, Takhlid, Ellway Prince, Ziggy's Dancer, 14-1 others.

3.50 NEW BALDERTON STAKES (£1,331: 1m 3f) (16)

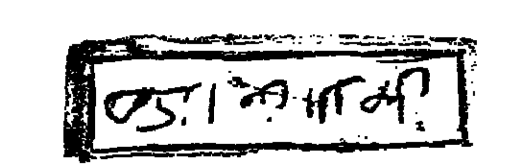
1 060- BEDAZZLE 45 (G) M Brittain 8-9-0 ... R Farmer (7) 7
2 42-0 BROCTUNE LINE 21 (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-0 A Culhane 15
3 -005 CASTLE ASHBY JACK 15 P Howling 5-9-0 ... J Quinn 9
4 0-30 HYPERICO 7 (V) Miss S Wilton 5-9-0 ... S Whitworth 5
5 050- JOSEPH'S WINE 246 (B,BF,CD,F,G) J Wharton 10-9-0 ... R Cochrane 16
6 00-0 PETER PERFECT 28 (V) Mrs S Lamyman 5-9-0 C Teague (3) 13
7 2-60 PICKENS 11 (CD,F) Bruce Hosea 7-9-0 ... Kim Tinkler 2
8 3034 SLIP JIG 8 (S) K Burke 5-9-0 ... N Callan (5) 10
9 0-00 LOBUCHE 25 (B,S) M Chapman 4-8-12 ... S Righton (7) 11
10 0- STACCATO 153 D Smith 4-8-12 ... C Lowther 6
11 -560 PORTITE SOPHIE 11 (CD,S) M Brittain 8-8-9 M Semple (7) 8
12 -000 TRANSPARENT 7 (G) D Carroll 7-8-9 ... R FitzPatrick (5) 1
13 06-0 ATHENIAN HEIGHTS 9 M Waring 4-8-7 ... R Price 4
14 6-33 BUNNIES OWN 18 (C) J L Harris 4-8-7 ... Dean McKeown 12
15 -003 CASATI 23 P Felgate 4-8-7 ... P M Quinn (7) 3
16 4-40 PUIWEE 18 P Dalton 4-8-7 ... L Charnock 14

3-1 Pickens, 9-2 Slip Jig, 8-1 Broctune Line, Joseph's Wine, Portite Sophie, Bunnies Own, 12-1 Hyperico, 14-1 others.

4.20 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£2,866: 1m 4f) (8)

1 '04- POWDER RIVER 110 (G) K Burke 5-10-0 ... D Sweeney 5
2 305- OVER TO YOU 233 (G) T Barron 5-10-6 ... O Pears 8
3 -312 PALAIS 18 (C) J L Harris 4-9-7 ... R Cochrane 2
4 04-5 SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 17 (D,S) D Barker 8-8-6 T Williams 4
5 0-10 LAA JADEED 18 (C) M Polglase 4-8-2 ... N Pollard (3) 7
6 410- CAROL AGAIN 322 (BF,CD) N Bycroft 7-8-1 ... J Quinn 1
7 -42- FATEHALKHAIR 62J B Ellison 7-7-10 ... P Hanagan (7) 6
8 00-1 NO SHOES NO NEWS 11 (CD) M A Buckley 4-7-10 (6ex) ... Dale Gibson 3

11-4 Palais, 4-1 Powder River, 9-2 Fatehalkhair, No Shoes No News, 8-1 Laa Jadeed, Carol Again, 14-1 Over To You, Summerhill Special.



FOOTBALL: £3.5 MILLION CROATIA INTERNATIONAL CAN MAKE IT FOURTH TIME LUCKY FOR NEWCASTLE IN TRANSFER MARKET

Gullit swoops for magpie lover Maric

By George Caulkin and Stephen Wood

FOR a man who once described himself as a "citizen of the world," Ruud Gullit was putting his theory into practice last night, flying from Eastern Europe to Spain to complete the estimated £3.5 million signing of Silvio Maric, the Croatia Zagreb midfield player.

Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, and Freddy Shepherd, the club chairman, emerged from negotiations with Zagreb officials yesterday having agreed a fee for the Croatia international. They were understood to have travelled on to La Manga last night, where Zagreb's first-team squad are on a winter break.

"I'm happy about this," Maric, 23, who played a bit-part role in his country's run to third place in the World Cup last summer, said. "I must talk with Ruud Gullit and Newcastle about my personal contract, but the important thing is that Newcastle and Croatia Zagreb have made a deal." While the player's father said that his son would not arrive on Tyneside until after the Croatia international match with Denmark next Wednesday, Newcastle officials were hoping to persuade Maric to pay a fleeting visit to Newcastle within the next 24 hours.

Their desire is to avoid a repeat of recent mishaps in the transfer market. Taribo West and Dion Dublin have both rejected moves to Newcastle, while Ibrahim Ba, the Internazionale and France midfield player, failed a medical last month. There is little doubt, however, that Maric is keen to sign for Gullit. He played at St James' Park during Newcastle's 4-3 aggregate victory over Zagreb in the second qualifying round of the European Cup last season and, on hearing of Newcastle's interest late last week, wore a black and white shirt in training. "My favourite bird is the magpie," he said.

Blackburn Rovers believe that they did everything to persuade Tim Sherwood to stay, but that was not the version of the transfer saga emanating from the midfield player yesterday after he had completed his move to Tottenham Hotspur.

Sherwood, who had been unhappy with life at Blackburn for the past few months, underwent extensive contract negotiations with the club with a view to securing a lucrative extension. It was understood that he rejected the improved offers, but he has since accused Blackburn of forcing him out. "They accepted the bid from Spurs last Monday, a day before I was due to have more talks about a new contract with the club," Sherwood said. "When you realise your club has accepted an offer from another club, you've got no option but to leave. Once I knew about Tottenham's offer for me, there was no doubt I would sign for them."

The fee is believed to be around £4 million and Sherwood has signed a contract that will keep him at White Hart Lane for the next four years. Sherwood, 30, was at Blackburn for seven years and was an integral part of the side, managed by Kenny Dalglish, that won the FA Carling Premiership title in 1995.

Born in St Albans, Sherwood still owns a house in the South East, but he said: "It's Tottenham that appeals to me, not the fact that I live in the area. It was difficult to leave Blackburn, but everyone's time comes to an end. When Brian Kidd came in as manager, he perhaps decided that it was right for me to go."

George Graham, the Tottenham manager, said: "Tim is a quality player who can help our midfield compete with the best teams in the league."

Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa forward, is expected to leave the clinic today where he has been receiving treatment for stress for the past week and could be available for Villa's home league game against Blackburn tomorrow. Liverpool are not expected to follow-up their interest in David Weir, the Heart of Midlothian centre back.

Bolton Wanderers have agreed to sell Arnar Gunnlaugsson, their transfer-listed Iceland striker, to Leicester City for £2 million. Gunnlaugsson, 25, who signed for Bolton from IA Akranes in July 1997 for £100,000, will talk over personal terms at Filbert Street today.

THE BEST SINCE BEST?

There can no longer be any doubts as to Dwight Yorke's value, says **Kevin McCarra**

PHOTOGRAPH: MARC ASPLAND

1987-88	Brian McClair	24
1988-89	Mark Hughes	14
1989-90	Hughes	13
1990-91	McClair, Steve Bruce	13
1991-92	McClair	18
1992-93	Hughes	15
1993-94	Eric Cantona	18
1994-95	Andrei Kanchelskis	14
1995-96	Cantona	14
1996-97	Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	18
1997-98	Andy Cole	16
1998-99	Dwight Yorke	13 so far

Before McClair, left, scored 24 goals in 87-88, the previous United player to break the 20 league goals barrier was George Best, right, with 28 in 1967-68

No rest for the good. There are occasions when others are allowed to drop their chins on their chests while they loll on the substitutes' bench, but Manchester United will not permit Dwight Yorke to take his ease there. Then again, the forward never allows the opposition any respite either. When fit, he has been deemed indispensable and chosen to start every FA Carling Premiership match since signing for the club from Aston Villa last August.

He is the still point in a rotating selection policy. Expect defenders to grimace in disagreement with the idea that Yorke is static in any other regard. His roaming is always designed to take him, by devious routes, to the same destination. The Tobagan has scored 13 times for United in the Premiership already, making it possible that he will become the first player at Old Trafford since Brian McClair to score 20 league goals in a season.

Yorke has begun to strike with the authority of a man declaring his value to the world. Sleekness of control and a low finish, for his seventh goal in five appearances, ensured that United defeated Derby County 1-0 on Wednesday, when Andy Cole, his customary ally, was not taking part.

Yorke is particularly formidable because of a new, assured versatility. How are centre backs to deal with a person who gives them the slip by stepping out of character? Last Sunday, Yorke, who is all finesse, converted himself into an aggressive target man when he climbed to tuck home the header in the last minute that defeated Charlton Athletic. Opponents are failing to take his measure and he is also proving more than the United supporters bargained for. Many believed the price excessive when Alex Ferguson agreed a £12.5 million fee with Aston Villa. The scale of the cost was the measure of the manager's faith. Ferguson has a very Scottish sense that there is self-delusion at the heart of extravagance and, when signings were balanced against sales, it emerges that he spent only £1 million a season in his first 11 years at Old Trafford. Last spring, according to Martin Edwards, the club chairman, it was Ferguson's decision not to buy Marcelo Salas, the Chile forward who eventually moved to Lazio for £13.5 million.

When the deal for Yorke became possible, there were, by contrast, no inhibitions. In addition to identifying the right man, Ferguson had also picked the right moment to acquire him. When Eric Cantona arrived at Old Trafford, he gave the place a haughty look, as if determining whether it was worthy of him. Yorke is too merry for disdainful aloofness, but he, too, regards the arena with approval rather than trepidation. It is his proper stage.

He was not always so esteemed. "If Yorke is a first division footballer, my name is Mao Tse Tung," Tommy Docherty once said. Presumably, the former United manager, when he eventually passes on,

'He is proving more than the United supporters bargained for'

will now lie in state in Tiananmen Square. Ridicule is tempting, yet Docherty was giving only a gaudy version of a judgment made by several others. Yorke was a prodigy whose gifts were muffled for too long.

He was an extraordinary teenager when he amazed Graham Taylor during an exhibition match on a Villa close season tour to the Caribbean. In common with most holiday souvenirs, he did not look quite so good when brought back to drizzly Britain. When Ron Atkinson was in charge, Dalian Atkinson and Dean Saunders were the preferred partnership in attack.

His background — and the evidence of one tabloid report this season makes it tempting to portray Yorke in stereotype as a calypso hedonist — but his confidence needed to be nurtured and it was under Brian Little that Yorke finally excelled at Villa Park. Now, his mobility, touch and poise are brought to bear unwaveringly. When Ryan Giggs suffered the hamstring injury against Derby that may keep him out of the European Cup quarter-final with Internazionale next month, there was relief that the most devastating figure of all is in husky health.

The Italian club's totem expects that his poor, maltreated knees will have healed by the time of that fixture, leaving him in prime condition to be, as he put it, "the real Ronaldo, the one everyone knows". Even so, the Brazilian may find himself outdone by the revelatory Yorke.

Wise sees stock fall after going into red again

George Caulkin on the Chelsea captain's latest act of indiscipline

Wise: sent off four times already this season

AFTER the fouls, the trips, the swipes and the back-chat, the fourth dismissal of Dennis Wise's season came after a relatively trivial offence, but it highlighted signs that the belligerent midfield player's antics are beginning to try the patience of his Chelsea teammates.

Wise was guilty of twice handling the ball during his side's 4-2 defeat of Oxford United in their FA Cup fourth-round replay at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday night. One more dismissal and Wise will equal the five red cards shown in a season to Dave Caldwell, while he was playing for Chesterfield and Torquay United 11 years ago.

His latest misdemeanour will lift his leave of absence from the Chelsea team since last August to 14 matches — a statistic not appreciated by his colleagues. "I could not believe he did it," Dan Petrescu, the Romania international, said of Wise's second handball. "Even if it was going in, it didn't really matter. We were 4-1 up with 15 minutes to go. All the lads were disappointed, even though we had won the game."

The Chelsea captain will now miss important fixtures against Nottingham Forest, Liverpool, Middlesbrough and West Ham United, which, given the long-term injuries suffered by Pierluigi Casiraghi and Gustavo Poyet, the departure of Brian Laudrup and Tore Andre Flo's unavailability at present, can only further disrupt the club's challenge for the FA Carling Premiership.

The question, therefore, is why? Why do Chelsea persist with a player whose undoubted enthusiasm is periodically transformed into aggression, whose gifts are often overshadowed by his attitude? Is this the insignia of a talent on the wane, a man whose legs can no longer keep pace with his brain, whose importance to his team is far less weighty than his reputation?

The answers tend to be provided when it matters most, by commanding individual performances in the Coca-Cola and Cup Winners' Cup finals last season, and by those who matter most — by Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, and Ruud Gullit, Vialli's predecessor.

The manner of Wise's dismissal on Wednesday almost provided grounds for celebration for Vialli, who seemed to seize upon it as conclusive evidence of the player's "improving" behaviour. "I will defend him all the time," Vialli said. "He feels very frustrated because he likes to play football and he doesn't want to be branded someone who can't play all season."

In his autobiography, Gullit said: "I was convinced there was much more to Dennis as a player than his reputation at the time would lead you to believe. He was always labelled a tearaway, someone who kicked opponents, shouted and screamed, was generally undisciplined, something of a rogue. That was not the Dennis Wise I knew and I wanted the player to emerge and to achieve."

Vialli is sticking by his player, convinced that he is mending his ways. Of his captain's five bookings this season, the last came five weeks earlier. His previous sending-off came away to Everton at the start of December — his first match after a four-game suspension. We had thought, perhaps, that his angelic demeanour heralded a change. Like a leopard bearing stripes, the theory was wrong.

Bowyer earns new England chance

PETER TAYLOR, the England Under-21 coach, has given Lee Bowyer, the Leeds United midfield player, the chance to revive his international career after their dispute over his absence from the Toulon tournament last summer.

Taylor was upset when Bowyer chose to go on holiday rather than play in France. Bowyer has not featured in the squad this season, but now Taylor has given him a reprieve for the match against France next Tuesday after a series of impressive performances for Leeds.

"I had a few words with Lee because I wanted him to go to Toulon," Taylor said. "I was disappointed over that, but Lee is playing well enough to be given another chance."

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, denied yesterday there was a rift between himself and Andy Goram, the Motherwell goalkeeper, who has accepted Brown's invitation to reverse his decision to retire from international football on the eve of France 98.

Goram, 34, walked out of the Scotland World Cup training camp, but has impressed Brown since his comeback to club football at Fir Park last month. Brown said: "There was never any acrimony on my part because I accepted his reasons for leaving us."

Neville Southall, the former Everton goalkeeper, is likely to be a substitute for Huddersfield Town in their FA Cup fifth-round tie against Derby County on February 13. Southall, 40, who is also the goalkeeping coach at Huddersfield on a non-contract basis, has been playing for Torquay United while Ken Veysey, the first-choice goalkeeper, has been recovering from injury.

Sampdoria have brought back Luciano Spalletti as coach, just six weeks after dismissing him to make way for David Platt, the former England midfield player, who left the club on Tuesday.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	80	90	Hard	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	29/1
Austria								
Kitzbühel	70	150	Good	Open	Heavy	Cloud	0	4/2
Obergurgl	40	230	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-4	4/2
Söll	85	130	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	0	4/2
Canada								
Lake Louise	133	177	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-4	3/2
France								
Alpe d'Huez	109	200	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	3	29/1
Avoriaz	110	130	Good	Open	Heavy	Fair	0	29/1
Flaine	110	295	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	0	29/1
La Plagne	115	195	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-3	29/1
Le Tania	110	175	Good	Hard	Varied	Fair	5	29/1
Les Arcs	120	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	2	30/1
Megève	100	200	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun	0	29/1
Méribel	70	110	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	28/1
Tignes	117	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-3	29/1
Val d'Isère	105	240	Good	Hard	Varied	Fine	-5	29/1
Italy								
Cervinia	75	150	Good	Hard	Varied	Cloud	4	2/2
Cortina	30	70	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	-5	29/1
Norway								
Geilo	70	70	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-7	30/1
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	60	180	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-1	29/1
Davos	90	170	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-1	3/2
Grindelwald	60	105	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-2	3/2
Klosters	90	170	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	3	3/2
Murren	100	180	Good	Artificial	Varied	Fine	1	30/1
Saas Fee	50	220	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-1	29/1
St Moritz	50	105	Fair	Hard	Varied	Wind	6	29/1
Wengen	55	105	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-2	29/1
Zermatt	70	180	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-3	28/1
United States								
Aspen	100	125	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	3	4/2
Deer Valley	155	180	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-1	2/2

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes. U = upper slopes

RUGBY LEAGUE

Low-key start for league with high ideas

By Christopher Irvine

MODESTY no longer becomes sport. The first division is now the Premiership — officially, the Northern Ford Premiership. At the present rate of progress, the Super League will become the Hyper League, and so on.

The self-styled Premiership, not to be confused with the FA Carling Premiership, Allied Dunbar Premiership or the top-eight competition discarded by rugby league itself two years ago, is viewed by those clubs outside the elite as necessary window-dressing.

The erstwhile first and second division clubs begin their season in a single 18-team competition on Sunday, four weeks before the Super League starts, still without television coverage, but, importantly, with a modest but valuable £100,000 sponsorship by northern Ford dealers.

Bob McDermott, the chairman of the itself outdated First Division Clubs Association, said: "Super League is seen as the premier competition, but there are hundreds of other people playing at amateur and professional level and we are the best of the rest."

Research will concentrate on whether the Premiership should revert to a winter season. Should that prove attractive to television, McDermott said it would be an incentive to switch back. A frittering away of £10.8 million, which represents two seasons' money after the smaller clubs were bought out of the Super League contract last year, would place the futures of several at risk.

With the arrival of sponsors, the successful introduction of top-five play-offs last year and a keener sense of open competition this season, the mood is upbeat. Hull Kingston Rovers start as favourites, but Dewsbury, Hunslet and Widnes are all dark horses.

SQUASH

Parke resists challenge from old foe

SIMON PARKE, the defending champion, left the Northern Club in Didsbury yesterday sure of his quarter-final place in the Business Pages national championships at the Manchester Velodrome today (Colin McQuillan writes). Half an hour earlier, the Nottingham-based 26-year-old had stood two games down to David Campion, the unranked coach from Queens Sports Club in Halifax.

Parke won 7-15, 9-15, 15-6, 15-4, 15-5 in 65 minutes to reach a quarter-final against yet Marcus Berrett, 23, another Yorkshireman, whom he defeated in straight games at the same stage last year but who has improved enough to put out Nick Taylor, the No 4 seed, 13-15, 9-15, 15-9, 15-3, 15-5 yesterday.

Parke and Campion shared sparkling junior careers. While Parke went on to become a touring professional, Campion broke down with groin problems that still inhibit his action.

In June, Campion will marry Cassandra Jackman, the top seed in the women's championship, who eased through the first round yesterday 3-9, 9-0, 9-6, 9-0 against Janie Thacker.

RUGBY UNION

Scotland put faith in Townsend

By Mark Souster and David Hands

SCOTLAND have made six changes to the team that lost to South Africa in the autumn for their opening Five Nations Championship international against Wales tomorrow at Murrayfield.

In the absence of Bryan Redpath, who is injured, Gary Armstrong returns in an untried half-back partnership with Duncan Hodge. Elsewhere in the backs, Glenn Metcalfe has recovered from a shoulder injury to regain the full back berth from Derrick Lee. Kenny Logan comes in on the left wing, with Cammy Murray switching to the right in place of Alan Tait and, whether he likes it or not, Gregor Townsend finds himself back at outside centre. The only change in the pack sees Martyn Leslie at open-side flanker.

Townsend's return in the starting line-up generated most discussion at the team announcement yesterday. The player himself has made it plain that he would rather play anywhere else, but Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, is not alone in thinking that the Brive player is at his most effective in the No 13 jersey. Townsend, who can cover fly half and full back, where he came on as replacement for Lee against South Africa, replaces Jamie Mayer, who is injured, but, according to Telfer, he may have started as of right. Finding a place for the mercurial Townsend has invariably provoked a dilemma as to where to play him.

Will Carling, the former England captain, will be on the Harlequins replacements bench for the Allied Dunbar Premiership match with Leicester at the Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow. Carling announced his return to club rugby on Tuesday.

Martyn Leslie teams up with his brother John, who is at inside centre. Both brothers have made a significant impression since arriving from New Zealand in the autumn. "They are ingrained in what I call top-class rugby," Telfer said. "No situation is new to them. Both are very modest and unassuming players."

France arrived in Dublin yesterday in pursuit of an unprecedented third successive grand slam in the championship yet still with queries surrounding the make-up of the XV to play Ireland tomorrow. In addition, they had to change their back row less than 24 hours after confirming a squad in which Marc Lièvremont was due to play blind-side flanker.

The Stade Français player strained a hamstring in training at Clairfontaine on Wednesday and withdrew, depriving Jean-Claude Skrela, the coach, of the chance to regroup his favoured back row of the Lièvremont brothers and Olivier Magne. That area, though, is not significantly weakened by the addition of Philippe Benetton, the experienced Agen flanker.

It will be Emil Ntamack's first championship game since he played against Ireland two years ago, in the unfamiliar position of full back. Ntamack shrugs that off: his international recognition has been on the wing, he is playing for Toulouse at centre this season but full back is the position in which he played for five years as a junior.

Ireland are clearly wary of Ntamack: "French teams have always had individual brilliance and Ntamack fits into that category," Donal Lenihan, the Ireland manager, said. "If you give them any space, they can be devastating. It is essential that we perform to the maximum of our ability."

The French federation is in the process of negotiating a new television contract lasting up to 2003, a situation of which England will be interested to learn more when their leading administrators meet their French counterparts next Wednesday. The federation expects to reach agreement by April over an issue which, in principle, cost England a place (briefly) in the championship itself and remains a bone of contention with their home-union "partners".

SCOTLAND: G Metcalfe (Glasgow Caledonians); C A Murray (Edinburgh Reivers), G P J Townsend (Brive), J A Leslie (Glasgow Caledonians), K M Logan (Wasps); D W Hodge (Edinburgh Reivers), G Armstrong (Newcastle Falcons, captain); T J Smith (Glasgow Caledonians), G C Bulloch (Glasgow Caledonians), A P Burnell (London Scottish), S Murray (Bedford), G W Weir (Newcastle Falcons), P Walton (Newcastle Falcons), M D Leslie (Edinburgh Reivers), E W Peters (Bath). Replacements: S L Longstaff (Glasgow Caledonians), A V Tait (Edinburgh Reivers), I Fairley (Edinburgh Reivers), A C Pountney (Northampton), S B Grimes (Glasgow Caledonians), D I W Hilton (Bath), S J Brotherstone (Edinburgh Reivers).

MICHAEL COOPER/ALLSPORT



Smith's form has persuaded Telfer, the national team coach, that Scotland have unearthed a real gem

Silent warrior seeking to make up for lost time

Mark Souster on Tom Smith, who faces Wales for the first time tomorrow

Those who do not know him better would assume that Tom Smith had taken a vow of silence — perhaps he was a Trappist monk in a former existence. The abiding image of the Scotland loose-head prop on tour in New Zealand in 1996 and with the British Isles a year later is of a solitary individual at his happiest immersed in the latest Tom Clancy novel, or simply taking a stroll away from the claustrophobic environs of the team hotel.

It does not do a man who plays in his position any harm to perpetuate the impression of the strong, silent type, for whom actions speak louder than words. He is aware of his reputation. "Let's just say I am not unhappy with my own company," he says.

But to stereotype him as a dour loner would be to do the 27-year-old an injustice. Smith has a dry sense of humour and although he choses his words sparingly, they all count. He possesses that inner drive, mental toughness and determination that separates the promising from the fulfilled.

Not that Smith is yet totally fulfilled. Given his stature, it is surprising that he has won only four caps for Scotland and never played against Wales, a situation that will be redressed tomorrow at Murrayfield. His opponent will be Dai Young, a colleague on the British Isles tour in 1997 — an expedition on which Smith departed an unknown, but returned a conquering hero with offers flooding in from English clubs, but also, alas, with his body in pieces.

The twisting and turning that he had to endure against bigger, but less technically-adept South Africans and his determination to ignore pain resulted in a serious groin injury that put his international career on hold for 14 months.

The original diagnosis was rest, which failed to solve the problem, but an operation last February did the trick. The match against the New Zealand Maoris marked his return to Scotland colours and his rehabilitation was completed against South Africa and in wins in World Cup qualifying matches over Spain and Portugal. "I feel as good as I have ever been," Smith, who is 5ft 10in and 16½st, said.

Naturally, he does not share assumptions that Scotland are destined for the wooden spoon. "Compared with two years ago, there is a lot of character in the squad and an underlying confidence," Smith said. "You are also encouraged to have your say, whether you have one cap or 50. This is about giving players responsibility. Jim Telfer [the Scotland coach] tells us: 'More responsibility means more accountability.' It is all that players want. We are beginning to pull in the same direction."

Smith, born in London, began playing mini-rugby with London Welsh before his Scottish mother sent him to Rannoch School in Perthshire. From there, he moved to college in Dundee and a place in the Dundee High School Former Pupils' side, then the North and Midlands district.

In between, he won representative honours for Scottish Schools and Scotland Under-21 then made his full debut in 1997 in the Five Nations Championship against England. His performance at Twickenham reinforced Telfer's belief that Scotland had unearthed a gem.

"He is a very determined young man," Telfer, who was instrumental in ensuring he was selected for the Lions, said. "He is dynamic but is nowhere near his full potential."

English disdain only rubs salt into old wounds

GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Commentary

SHOULD we celebrate the start of the Five Nations Championship and luxuriate in the thoughts of the many pleasures that lie ahead, or merely regret that it is but a brief hiatus, a temporary truce before the northern hemisphere's rugby problems re-emerge?

Many an enemy has been made of late and England and its member clubs are cast as the villains. They are seen to be behaving on the basis of self-interest and somewhere short of a sense of honour. The evidence, such as it is, lies on four fronts.

It began with the television contract of two years ago. England's representatives chose to cut a deal privately and unilaterally when, to all intents and purposes, they had agreed to act collectively as part of a committee.

At the same time — and they have still not gone away — the hawks at Twickenham were prepared to acknowledge that, for their purposes, they had outgrown the Five Nations Championship. They would willingly sacrifice the tournament and seek to encourage a competition of their own devised to involve five other nations, which included themselves, France and the three southern-hemisphere countries. Despite all the revenue, popularity and the good that the Five Nations Championship does for the game as a whole, England would happily jettison the tournament.

Next, the English clubs chose to eschew the European Cup because they did not get what they wanted, which was for the competition to be run entirely in their favour. There may be a sound case for all clubs to have more of a say in the destiny of the tournament, but not for it to be dominated by the members of one union, or even two.

Then, this week, England gave Wales such a meagre complement of teams for a cross-border competition that the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) saw it as no more than an enhanced English league. Furthermore, since control of the league was a concept that England were unwilling to share, the WRU concluded that the proposal presented no proper choice at all. The idea, such as it was, had narrowed to an Anglo-Welsh league, overwhelmingly English, while the Scottish clubs, also in need of enhanced competition, were ignored.

Each of these points could be a case for length argument, but, taken collectively, it is a cause for disquiet, even offence, that one union and its members would appear to pursue such tactics and their own agenda at the expense of others.

Many years ago, when a brighter rugby light seemed to gleam in Wales, England's fortunes could hardly be said to be of the kind to be sung to the world. In 30 seasons between 1960 and 1990, Wales won 21 fixtures to England's six, with four drawn. The past may be a foreign country, but it should not be ignored in helping to shape the future.

At any rate, in those days it was almost customary for the WRU president, in his after-match speech when Wales had beaten England at Cardiff Arms Park, to ask his visitors not to worry. "We will continue to include you on our fixture list in the future," he would say. It was a joke. It may not have been entirely in the best of tastes, since it did not take into account the sensitivity that lay behind dented pride. Nonetheless, it was meant to be funny.

After a decade of English rugby supremacy in Europe, there are those, in this comparatively brief span, who clearly question the present value of a fixture list that includes Wales, Ireland and Scotland. Thereby, the whole idea of the Five Nations Championship has been put in doubt. Except that this is no longer a joke. This has been, remarkably, a serious contention, disdainful in its presumption. Instead of attempting to seek a remedy for the lack of competition in the tournament, there are those who wish to destroy it.

If some do not understand why it is that the Celtic nations are up in arms, or why it is that England are so often viewed with a certain detachment, the present dilemmas might help to clear the position. It would be unwise for England, complacently, to see others wanting to beat them as a compliment, nor is that desire borne out of any sense of envy or inferiority. Whatever the old grievances were, they are now being revisited afresh.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET

International matches

Zimbabwe A v England A

HARARE (third day of five): Zimbabwe A have scored 147 for seven wickets against England A

ZIMBABWE A: First Innings

T N Madondo c Read b Betts ... 8
C B Wishart hit wicket b Thomas ... 5
G J Whittall c Swann b Betts ... 24
D P Viljoen c Read b Thomas ... 6
S V Carlisle not out ... 46
† D J R Campbell c Swann b Thomas ... 3
A M Blignaut c Read b Thomas ... 6
B C Strang c Flintoff b Thomas ... 23
*A R Whittall not out ... 9
Extras (lb 6, nb 11) ... 17
Total (7 wkts) ... 147

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-32, 3-45, 4-54, 5-58, 6-69, 7-114.
BOWLING: Betts 18-4-61-2; Flintoff 12-5-24-0; Thomas 17.2-3-48-5; Cosker 5-1-8-0
Umpires: I D Robinson and K C Barbour.

New Zealand Under-19 v England Under-19

NEW PLYMOUTH (third day of four): New Zealand Under-19, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 344 runs to beat England Under-19

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First innings 285 (R K J Dawson 57, R J Logan 63, I N Flanagan 53, H Shaw 5-49).

Second Innings

*M A Gough c Englefield b Martin ... 43
I N Flanagan b Gillespie ... 12
I R Bell run out ... 91
M A Carberry c McGlashan b Hendry ... 26
J K Maunders c Gillespie b Hendry ... 6
R K J Dawson c McIntosh b Martin ... 12
M P Bulbeck c Patton b Martin ... 51
J R Tucker c Gillespie b Hendry ... 4
R J Logan b Martin ... 2
G R Bridge st McGlashan b Martin ... 0
† M A Wallace not out ... 14
Extras (b 15, lb 10, w 4) ... 29
Total ... 290

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-139, 3-179, 4-198, 5-213, 6-215, 7-225, 8-236, 9-242.
BOWLING: Shaw 12-3-42-0; Franklin 7-1-19-0; Gillespie 7-1-18-1; Martin 40.1-18-76-5; Jansen 24-6-69-0; Hendry 17-3-41-3

NEW ZEALAND UNDER-19: First innings 202 (M Papps 64).

Second Innings

T McIntosh not out ... 19
M Papps not out ... 7
Extras (lb 4) ... 4
Total (no wkt) ... 30

BOWLING: Bulbeck 4-1-14-0; Logan 4-0-7-0; Bridge 1-0-1-0; Dawson 1-0-4-0
Umpires: R J Pitcairn and M McLean.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 87 Edinburgh 65; Thames Valley 94 Derby 79; Worthing 81 London 94.

BOWLS

WARILLA, Sydney: International match: England 2 Australia 1 (England won series 2-1).
LLANELLI: Welsh Masters: First round: J Greenslade (Wales) bt M King (Eng) 2-7, 7-6, 7-4; N Booth (Ire) bt G Robertson (Scot) 7-2, 7-5. **Quarter-finals:** J Forey (Wales) bt J Price (Wales) 7-5, 7-6; G Harlow (Eng) bt H Duff (Scot) 7-3, 5-7, 7-1.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Fourth-round replays: Chelsea 4 Oxford 2 (Chelsea away to Sheffield Wednesday); Huddersfield 2 Wrexham 1 (Huddersfield home to Derby County).
FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Manchester United 1 Derby County 0
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Clydebank 1 Ross County 1.
FA TROPHY: Third-round replay: Raunds T 0 Weston-super-Mare 1.
RYMAN LEAGUE: Second division: Harlow 1 Windsor and Eton 1.

ICE HOCKEY

SEKONDA SUPERLEAGUE: London Knights 2 Nottingham Panthers 3 (OT); Sheffield Steelers 6 Manchester Storm 5 (OT); Newcastle Riverkings 2 Cardiff Devils 5
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 3 Colorado 5; Carolina 1 New Jersey 4; Montreal 2 Vancouver 1; Washington 10 Tampa Bay 1; Detroit 5 New York Islanders 1; Florida 5 Toronto 2; Edmonton 2 Ottawa 2; Anaheim 3 Chicago 0

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCH: Halifax 16 Wigan 18

RUGBY UNION

WELSH LEAGUE: First division: Merthyr 18 Tondu 18
CLUB MATCH: Cambridge University 30 Newcastle 32

SKIING

VAIL, Colorado: World championships: Women: Super-giant slalom: 1, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 1min 20.53sec; 2, R Goetschl (Austria) 1:20.56; 3, M Dorfmeister (Austria) 1:20.74

SQUASH

MANCHESTER: National championships: Men: First round: M Chaloner (Lincs) bt B Garner (Surrey) 15-13, 4-15, 16-17, 15-13, 15-9; T Garner (Sussex) bt J Dale (Northumbria) 15-6, 15-4, 15-13; S Meads (Berks) bt P Lord (Cheshire) 15-11, 15-9, 15-9; C Walker (Essex) bt N Dugan (Bucks) 15-12, 15-5, 15-7; M Cairns (Oxon) bt B Ball (Suffolk) 13-15, 15-6, 15-5, 15-3; J Russell (Kent) bt C Tomlinson (Kent) 15-12, 17-14, 13-15, 15-14; J Wellings (Sussex) bt D Harris (Essex) 14-17, 2-6, ret; J White (Scot) bt L Drew (Essex) 12-15, 9-15, 15-9, 15-3, 15-6; P Hargrave (Derbys) bt D Ryan (Ire) 7-15, 10-15, 15-12, 15-12, 15-11; P Johnson (Kent) bt C Leach (Warwicks) 15-10, 15-5, 15-9. **Second round:** S Parke (Yorks) bt D Campion (Yorks) 7-15, 9-15, 15-6, 15-4, 15-5; M Barrett (Yorks) bt N Taylor (Lancs) 13-15, 9-15, 15-9, 15-3, 15-5; L Beachill (Yorks) bt N Matthew (Yorks) 15-11, 15-9, 15-12; Chaloner bt Garner 15-8, 7-15, 15-12, 15-10. **Women: First round:** C Jackman (Norfolk) bt J Thacker (Yorks) 3-9, 9-0, 9-6, 9-0; S Brind (Kent) bt V Botwright (Lancs) 9-1, 6-9, 2-9, 9-2, 9-4; J Martin (Northumbria) bt C Waddell (Scot) 9-2, 9-4, 9-0; F Geaves (Gloucs) bt P Nicholl (Cumbria) 9-4, 9-5, 10-8

TENNIS

MARSEILLES OPEN: First round: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-3, 6-2; A Di Pasquale (Fr) bt J Gimelstob (US) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. **Second round:** G Pozzi (It) bt G Raoux (Fr) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; R Federer (Switz) bt J Golmard (Fr) 6-7, 7-6, 7-6; F Santoro (Fr) bt Di Pasquale 6-1, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-3, 6-2.
TOKYO: Pan-Pacific Open: Second round: J Novotna (Cz) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-2, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt E Callens (Bel) 2-6, 6-1, 7-5; L Davenport (US) bt M J Fernandez (US) 6-4, 6-4; A Kournikova (Russ) bt C Black (Zim) 6-2, 6-3; S Graf (Ger) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; N Zvereva (Bela) bt L Raymond (US) 6-3, 6-2

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **BADMINTON:** Peter Knowles will return to competition after a 3½-month absence by trying to win back the men's singles title at the Liverpool Victoria national championships, which start in Haywards Heath today. The former champion had considered leaving the game after an eight-week suspension for insulting officials and general misbehaviour at the Dutch Open. Knowles, the No 3 seed, has good draw, which may help him to forget the income, said to be around £2,000, that he lost as a result of the ban.

■ **BOWLS:** Jonathan Forey continued his winning streak at Llanelli yesterday when he defeated John Price, the defending champion, 7-5, 7-6 in the quarter-finals of the Golden Charter Welsh Masters. Forey, 28, who lives in Llanelli but plays for the strong Cardiff club, won the Welsh title for the first time on Tuesday and beat Alex Marshall, the world champion, in the Masters on Wednesday.

■ **HOCKEY:** Mark Pearn returns from injury to the Reading side that will defend the indoor club title today at Crystal Palace. Reading, who defeated East Grinstead 9-8 in the final last year, are due to meet the same opponents in the final pool B match, but each side must also contend with Southgate, the third club in the pool, who are making a strong challenge.

■ **CYCLING:** Graeme Miller, New Zealand's former Commonwealth Games double gold medal-winner, took the overall lead in the Tour of Langkawi at the end of 166-kilometre second stage from Kangar to Georgetown, Malaysia yesterday.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Nationwide League

First division
Bristol City v QPR

Second division
Colchester v York

Third division
Swansea v Brighton

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: Midland Conference: Chesterfield v Port Vale (11.30). **North West Conference:** Bury v Tranmere (1.0), Preston v Rochdale (7.0)
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Newmarket v Felixstowe Port and Town (7.30).

RUGBY UNION

A international matches
Ireland v France (at Donnybrook, 5.0)
Scotland v Wales (at Myreside, 7.0)

Under-21 international matches
Ireland v France (at Musgrave Park, Cork, 7.0)
Scotland v Wales (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling 6.30)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Leicester Riders v Birmingham Bullets (8.0), Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (7.45)
HOCKEY: National indoor championships: Finals (at Crystal Palace, 3.15)
RUGBY LEAGUE: Club match: Sheffield v Hull (7.30).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 42 - Putting it into Practice

Enough of all that bidding theory. It is time for a full hand to see how it works in practice.

You pick up as South:

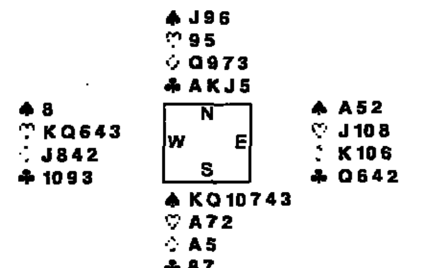
♠ K Q 10 7 4 3 ♡ A 7 2 ◇ A 5 ♣ 8 7

You have 13 HCP and, because you have two doubletons, an unbalanced hand. So you open with your longest suit, One Spade. Your partner, North, bids Two Clubs and East passes. What do you call?

You have a minimum opening bid, and have no second suit to bid, so you rebid your longest suit, Two Spades.

West passes, your partner raises to Three Spades and East passes. What do you call?

You have already described your hand as minimum but you do have a little extra. You could have had 12 HCP and you have 13. Also, you have a good, strong suit and two aces, which are always better than kings and queens. So you go on to Four Spades and this is the full hand:



North: ♠ J 9 6 ♡ 9 5 ◇ Q 9 7 3 ♣ A K J 5
West: ♠ 8 ♡ K Q 6 4 3 ◇ J 8 4 2 ♣ 10 9 3
East: ♠ A 5 2 ♡ J 10 8 ◇ K 10 6 ♣ Q 6 4 2
South: ♠ K Q 10 7 4 3 ♡ A 7 2 ◇ A 5 ♣ 8 7

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts.

Count your tricks. You have five spades, one heart, one diamond (maybe two if West has the king) and two clubs (maybe three if West has the queen). You need one more trick.

Should you win the ace of hearts and draw trumps? No. If you do that you will need an extra trick in a minor suit. There is a better play than that.

Win the ace of hearts and return a low heart. West will win and the best he can do is to play a trump to East's ace and East plays a second trump. You win in hand and ruff your small heart in the dummy. Come back to your hand with the ace of diamonds and draw the last trump, making ten tricks in all.

Deal out the hand for yourself and play it through until you are sure you understand everything that went on.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Bronze medal

I conclude my Wijk aan Zee coverage with two victories by third-placed Vladimir Kramnik. Since the Russian grandmaster's match loss to Alexei Shirov last year, some fire seems to have gone out of Kramnik's play. Nevertheless, his performance at Wijk aan Zee was excellent and included a revenge win against Shirov.

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Alexei Shirov
Wijk aan Zee 1999
Grunfeld Defence

	White	Black
1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	c5
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	d4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	g6
7	e4	Bg7
8	Bb5+	Nc6
9	0-0	cxd4
10	cxd4	0-0
11	Be3	Bg4
12	Bxc6	bxc6
13	Rc1	Bxf3
14	Qxf3	Bxd4
15	Rfd1	c5
16	Rxc5	Bxe3
17	Rxd8	Bxc5
18	Rxa8	Rxa8
19	Qc3	Rc8
20	Kf1	Rc7
21	a4	Bb6
22	Qe5	Rc2
23	a5	Bc5
24	f4	e6
25	g4	Rc4
26	Qc7	h6
27	f5	gxf5
28	gxf5	exf5
29	exf5	f6
30	Qg3+	Kf8
31	Qg6	Bd4
32	Qxh6+	Ke7
33	Qf4	Kd7
34	h4	Ra4
35	Qe4	Kd6
36	h5	Ra1+
37	Ke2	Be5
38	Qb4+	Kd5
39	Qb7+	Kc4
40	h6	Ra2+
41	Kf3	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

White: Vladimir Kramnik
Black: Jan Timman
Wijk aan Zee 1999
English Opening

	White	Black
1	Nf3	c5
2	c4	Nf6
3	Nc3	Nc6
4	g3	d5
5	d4	cxd4
6	Nxd4	dxc4
7	Nxc6	Qxd1+
8	Nxd1	bxc6
9	Bg2	Nd5
10	Ne3	e6
11	Nxc4	Ba6
12	Na5	Bc5
13	Bd2	0-0
14	Rc1	Bd4
15	b4	Bb5
16	Nxc6	Bb2
17	Rc5	Bxc6
18	Rxc6	Rac8
19	Rxc8	Rxc8
20	Bxd5	exd5
21	f4	Ba3
22	Rf1	Rc4
23	Rf3	Bxb4
24	Bxb4	Rxb4
25	Ra3	h5
26	Rxa7	Rb2
27	a4	Ra2
28	f5	Ra1+
29	Kf2	d4
30	a5	f6
31	Kf3	Kh7
32	a6	Kh6
33	h4	g6
34	fxg6	Kxg6
35	Ra8	Ra2
36	Kf4	Kf7
37	a7	Kg7
38	Kf5	Ra5+
39	Ke4	Ra4
40	Kd5	Ra1
41	Kxd4	Black resigns

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACUSHLA
a. An Alpine plant
b. Dear heart
c. An Alpine cow

FOO-FOO
a. An expression of disbelief
b. A petticoat
c. Dough

BALAO
a. A wooden gear
b. A dance
c. A fish

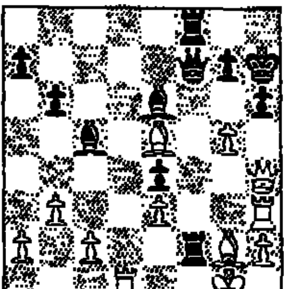
FRIPPET
a. A young hare
b. A young woman
c. A young fir tree

Answers on page 50

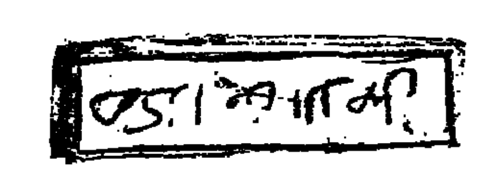
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Weiss — Kulhanek, Czech Republic, 1998. Unusually, both sides are attacking on the kingside. How did White break through?



Solution on page 50



GOLF: LEADING BRITONS FIND COMPETITION A STRUGGLE IN THE MALAYSIAN HEAT

Untimely shock for Westwood

BY MEL WEBB

THERE is nothing that is more solidly guaranteed to send a golfer into a blue funk than lightning. The shafts of golf clubs make first-class conductors and, if it rains as well, so do the frames of umbrellas.

Thus, when the mega-volts came towards the end of the first day of the Benson and Hedges Malaysian Open in steamy Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the players were only too pleased to hear the sound of salvation from the klaxons. Indeed, the call, some thought, might have come a little earlier.

Play at the Saujana club, on the outskirts of the Malaysian capital, was halted with 56 players still on the course, among them Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood, both struggling with early-season rustiness. Clarke held on gallantly *to the vestiges of his customary* geniality. "That was very close," he said with masterly understatement. Westwood, on the other hand, never one to mince his words, was positively volcanic in his criticism of what he saw as an unnecessary delay in pulling players off the course.

"We were on the 15th tee, which is just about the most exposed and open spot on the whole course, when we heard that somebody had been struck just below us," he said. "It was ridiculous."

At least Westwood escaped unscathed. He was relieved not to have been on the wrong *end of the electric shock treat*ment, but not half as relieved as Gil Oberhofer, an Australian television cameraman, who was on the tower behind the 14th green when he felt a strange sensation in his back. An ambulance was sent, but the doughty Oberhofer sent them away after assuring medical staff that he had suffered *no ill-effects.*

David Garland, the tournament director, said later that Oberhofer's experience may have been the result of a build-up of static rather than an all-out strike. Be that as it may, Oberhofer was still happier to be inside the clubhouse than outside it.

Valen Tan, the tournament director for the Asian Tour, which is running the event jointly with the European Tour, said that horns were sounded the moment a lightning device on the roof of the clubhouse registered a strike *within a radius of between five* and ten miles.

The precautions pleased nobody more than John Bickerton, the Midlander, who has been struck by lightning twice in his career. Spectators per*ished after strikes at both* the US Open and the US PGA championships in the early Nineties and among several other players to have been hit in the past is Lee Trevino, who responded, famously, by saying: "I should have held up a one-iron — not even God can hit a one-iron."

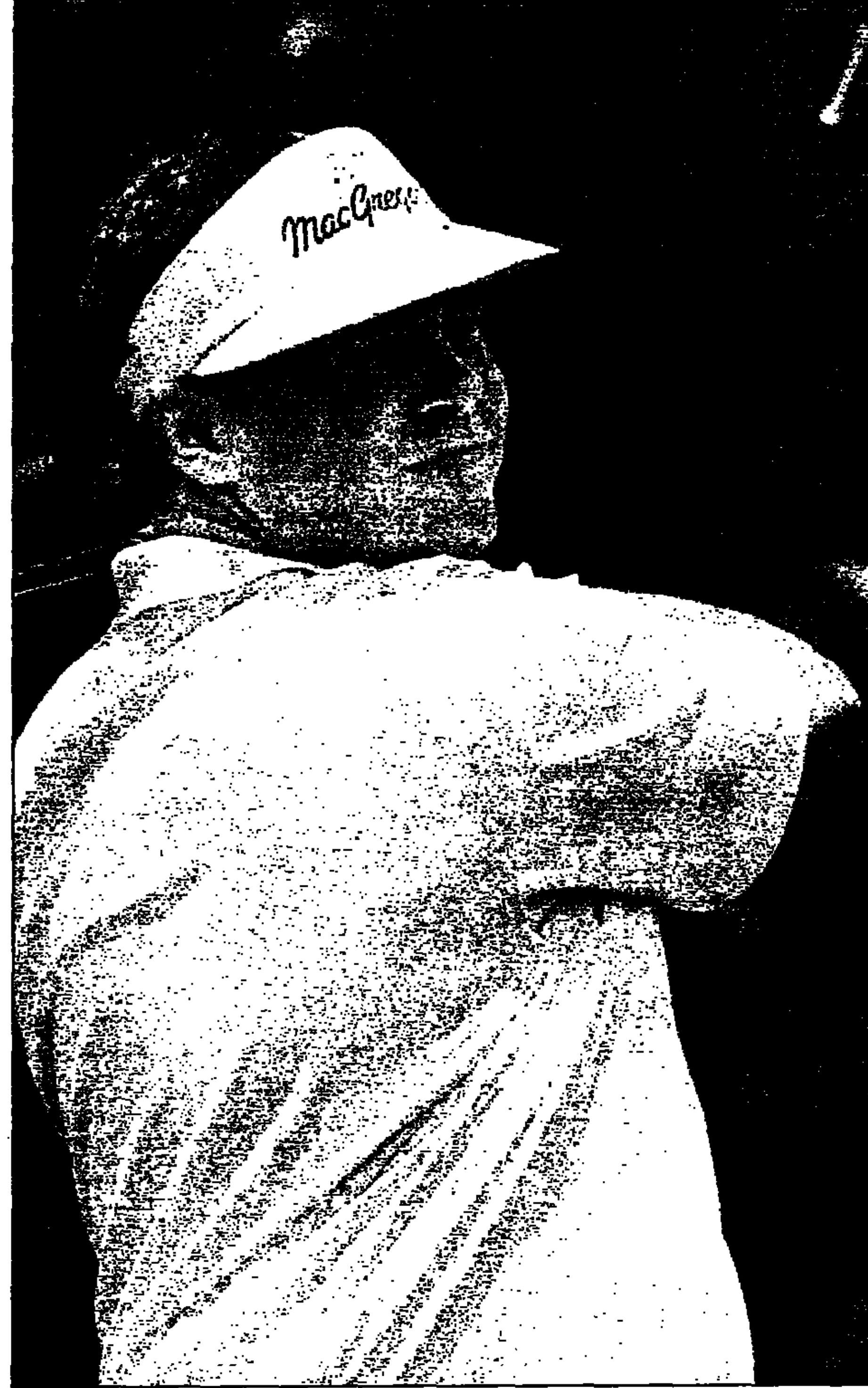
Earlier exploits on the course left Westwood and Clarke needing a dose of shock treatment if they were to make an impression on the tournament. Westwood, shirt soaked with perspiration, admitted to feeling rusty as he subsided to three over par with four holes to play, a stroke behind *Clarke*, who had played one hole fewer.

They have much ground to make up. The lead in the clubhouse, established before the suffocating humidity that preceded the storm became a telling factor, was held by Christian Pena, an American who *makes his living on the Asian* Tour, and Zhang Lian-wei, of China, both of whom recorded 66, six under par. David Howell, on three under par with two holes to play, was the best-placed home player, one ahead of Andrew Coltart, who shot a 70. What Westwood and *Clarke would not give to be in* their positions this morning.

SCORES

FIRST-ROUND LEADERS (round incomplete because of lightning) 66: C Pena (US), Zhang Lian-wei (China). 67: F Minoza (Phil). 68: Choi Kyoung-ju (S Kor), T Muñoz (Sp). 70: A Hansen (Den), C Charnock (US), A Cejka (Ger), A Coltart (GB), C Hainline (US), A Bonhomme (Aus). 71: G Morales (Ven), G Owen (GB), J Smith (US). 72: R May (US), P Marksaeng (Thai), Lu Wen-teh (Taiwan), Z Moe (Burma), Kyi-Hla Han (Burma). Other scores: 73: J Lomas (GB), V Philips (GB). 74: P McGinley (Ire).

ANDY WONG



Clarke tees off at the start of the interrupted first round in Kuala Lumpur yesterday

SKIING: WOMEN FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY MEN IN SPEED EVENTS

Austria continue to set the pace

FROM GRAHAM DUFFILL IN VAIL, COLORADO



Meissnitzer: relaxed

AUSTRIA dominated the women's super-giant slalom on Wednesday, increasing the stranglehold that their country has on the speed events at the world championships. Austria have now won five of *the first six medals.*

The men were completing their second training run yesterday for the downhill on Saturday on the Birds of Prey course at Beaver Creek. If all goes according to plan, it will be a dramatic race between Hermann Maier, of Austria, and Lasse Kjus, of Norway, who tied for first place in the super-giant slalom on Tuesday.

There are few other racers likely to prevent Austria from taking the other places on the podium. Their formidable *four-man team will be made* up of Maier, Werner Franz, Hans Knauss, who missed winning the gold medal in the super-giant slalom by 0.01sec in the closest race in world championship history, and Stephan Eberharter, who clinched the final place in the squad by finishing joint-first, with Knauss, in a training run *yesterday — both men record*ing a time of 1min 14.12sec.

It speaks volumes for Austria's strength in depth that Fritz Strobl, Hannes Trinkl and Andreas Schifferer and Peter Rzehak, who was fastest in training on Wednesday, will not be in their team.

Kjetil Andre Aamodt, of Norway, was second in the training run on Wednesday *and seventh yesterday* — performances that hinted that the technically demanding downhill course will suit him. Chad Fleischer, of the United States, showing his determination to pull out all the stops on "home" snow, was fourth.

Andrew Freshwater, of Great Britain, had an impressive run, finishing seven*teenth — just 2sec off the fast*est pace.

The women held the second *run of their downhill training* yesterday, with Michaela Dorfmeister taking first place. Dorfmeister, who took the bronze medal in the super-giant slalom on Wednesday, said afterwards that she wanted to win the downhill.

Renate Goetschl, who had finished second in the super-giant slalom, beaten by just *0.03sec, believes that Hilde* Gerg and Martina Ertl, both of Germany, will emerge as the biggest threats to another Austrian clean sweep. Alexandra Meissnitzer, the super-giant slalom gold medal-win*ner, said that she would be* more relaxed for the downhill now that she had secured a medal and was only tenth in training.

All competitors will have three training runs on the downhill courses. Today, the women will race for the combined medal with a downhill in the morning and two sla*lom races in the afternoon.* The times from all three races are added together.

BOWLS

Gillett leads England to series

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE three-man England team won the decisive third international at the Warilla *Indoor Bowls Club, near Syd*ney, yesterday and redeemed themselves in the eyes of Mal Hughes, the team manager, who had described their performance in the second international on Wednesday as "Mickey Mouse bowls".

"I'm very pleased with the way they played today," Hughes said. "The triples was a real battle, but they kept the game tight and didn't play any silly shots."

Hughes, who played for England from 1973 to 1981, added: "Les [Gillett] was exceptional in the pairs. He played an extremely *good game at lead.*"

Clearly referring to suggestions that England had sent a below-strength squad, he said: "Our boys learnt what it was like to play international bowls against good opposition."

It was the first overseas trip for the three players, who justified their selection in place of Tony Allcock, Andy Thomson and John Ottaway, who won the inaugural series last year.

England's success under*lined Australia's mistake* in playing the series indoors. Their ultra-fast outdoor greens would have given them a definite home advantage. Don Sherman, the Australia team manager, said: "The England players have so much more experience indoors and are very consistent." The series was scheduled to be outdoors, but was moved indoors to suit the television company covering the event.

Gillett, Danny Denison and John Leeman won the triples 15-13, after Australia opened with four successive singles. England scored the next 12 *shots in six ends and staved off* a strong rally by Australia. In the pairs, Gillett and Leeman clawed back from 1-7 after six *ends to win 15-10.*

Leaving the singles session until last was not a success because, in all three matches, the last rubber has been dead. England won triples and pairs in the first and third internationals, while Australia did the same in the second. In the "dead" singles, cut to best-of-three, Johnston, of Australia, *beat Denison 7-2, 5-7, 7-4.*

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

ACUSHLA

(b) Dear heart or darling (used as a term of address). Anglo-Irish. In Irish it means "vein or pulse of my heart".

FOO-FOO

(c) A kind of dough made out of plantains. A traditional food of Negroes on both sides of the Atlantic. Of West African origin. It is recorded in Twi, Ewe, Wolof, etc. "The Shepherd's Bush mar*ket has a shop devoted wholly to West Indian foods, like garden* eggs and foo-foo, edwene and dried snails."

BALAO

(c) A West *Indian fish, the half-beak.* The Spanish *name.* "For sail and other large fish they use a sardine-sized, sword-nosed minnow called a balao."

FRIPPET

(b) A frivolous or showy young woman. Origin unknown. "'Mistress!' he thought. It was like the swine of a man to use such a word for what he and Edwards would have called a bit of a frippet."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Qxh6+! gxh6; 2. Rxh6+ Kg8; 3. Rh8 checkmate.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Gardening in the buff

Garden Stories
BBC2, 8.30pm

This series has feasted on personality — or perhaps I mean eccentricity — so dubbing a whole episode *Personality looks* like egging the pudding. But you've been patient and now you are rewarded. Yes, here they are: the nude gardeners! "Obviously we wanted a secluded garden," they say, gener*ously baring it and themselves to the camera. But* size helps. A man with a vast estate has made it home to flamingos, wallabies, giant tortoises and enough exotica to satisfy William Randolph *Hearst. "I get carried away a bit," he sighs. "This is* my *Hello!* garden," cries Rosa whose patch is home to 110 dolls. She likes to eavesdrop on the comments of passers-by (or so she says). A former *hairdresser titivates her garden: "It's just a need to* snip."

Britain's Worst DIYers
ITV, 9.00pm

The "... from Hell" concept has, you might think, run its course but Granada's zeal for milking it is undimmed. The tape of the latest example was unavailable for preview but even the best efforts of the press release bode ill, promising "disasters which nearly all of us will be able to relate to". Lined up to parade their home improvement *shame are the Southampton man whose home* collapsed as a result of his tinkering with the porch, the Essex resident who cuts costs by papering his walls with samples and the Irish woman who never finishes a redecorating task. The champion has to be a man from Exeter who has "just paid off the mortgage but the house still looks like a building site".

Country House
BBC2, 7.30pm

The lives of the Tavistocks and their 250 staff at *Woburn Abbey, continued. Departures and* uncertainties mark this episode. The elephant handler quits the "artificial environment" of the safari park. The archaic straw-burning contrap*tion for heating the house is on its last bundle.* The head forester, Cyril, gets his long-awaited operation. A supervisor has been punched and the camera pretends to squint through half-closed doors at Lady Tavistock's deliberations on the issue. The trouble with this kind of docusoap is that it depends on — and hence *juices up* — the small change of individuals' lives and entirely ignores even the implication of any larger questions. The provocations inherent in the notion of stately homes *under new* Labour are left severely alone. So you learn nothing of import, merely witnessing the little dramas we all endure in our own lives.

Boyz Unlimited, a new comedy charting the rise of a boy band (*Channel 4, 9.30pm*)

Boyz Unlimited
Channel 4, 9.30pm

Does anybody monitor commissioning at Horseferry Road? I ask only because the *infinitely* superior *Young Person's Guide to Being a Rock Star*, shown late last year, has rendered this six-parter even more redundant than it would be by its own efforts. *Looking and sounding out of date, the* show's only point would be to use the launching of a boy combo as a means of savaging the rampant cynicism of band marketing but this merely purrs *genially at the music biz. Fatally, the material* is presented in documentary style, ignoring the fact that few actors (certainly few young actors) are adept at playing "real" as if unscripted. You would *think an experienced production company* like Hat Trick would know better than to produce an object lesson in how not to entertain the youth market.

W. Stephen Gilbert

RADIO CHOICE

Front Page Sport
Radio 4, 11.30pm

A new series presented by Rob Bonnet that takes a look at some of the famous occasions when sport has moved from the back pages to the ones at the front. There has been a very recent example of this but for the life of me I cannot recall the details. Many people see the arrival of sport on the front pages as a recent phenomenon, whereas nations with high profiles in sport have always found front-page space for the activities of their sporting figures. The series begins with the scandal involving the Chicago White Sox baseball team, which lost the World Series in 1919 in spite of being hot favourites. A year later match-fixing allegations emerged and eight White Sox players were put on trial.

Afternoon Play: Say it with Flowers
Radio 4, 2.15pm

Kevin Wong wrote this play and it is a delightfully wacky piece of work that clearly owes a good deal to Wong's background: he grew up working in a Chinese laundry (both his parents are Chinese) and later he worked at a fish 'n' chip shop in Stoke-on-Trent. How extraordinary are the minds at work behind the counters of Chinese takeaways. This story concerns Tommy (Ben Wong), whose girlfriend walks out on him over breakfast. The same morning Tommy is sacked from his job as a florist. Tommy's revenge forms the basis for the drama. He takes out his last load of flowers but delivers them to the wrong people, with consequences for the individuals concerned that range from the amusing to the plain tragic. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Pete Tong's Essential Selection **9.00** Judge Jules. Dance tunes **11.00** Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show **2.00am** Fabio and *Grooverider* **4.00** Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Jimmy Young **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Sean Hughes **7.00** Morley at the Musicals. New series. Sheridan Morley looks at the history of the transatlantic stage musical (1/6) **7.30** *Friday Night is Music Night* **9.15** Frankenstein (4/5) **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** David Jacobs **11.00** Believe It or Not **12.00am** Lynn Parsons **4.00** Lata Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News with Allan Robb **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive with Peter Allen and Jane Garvey **7.00** News Extra. Presented by Susan Bookbinder **7.30** Alan Green's Sportsnight. Includes commentary on Bristol City v QPR **10.00** Late Night Live with Brian Hayes **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **1.00pm** Anna Raeburn **3.00** OK! to Talk **5.00** The SportZone **8.00** Jackie Mason Live from New York **10.00** Dave Barrett **1.00am** Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **7.00** Wheels of Steel **11.00** Janey Lee Grace **2.00am** Steve Power

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.35** Science in Action **9.00** World News **9.05** The Art of Translating **9.20** John Peel **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** *Newsdesk* **10.30** *Britain Today* **10.45** *On Your Behalf* **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Focus on Faith **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** Science in Action **2.30** Best on Record **3.00** World News **3.05** Football Extra **3.15** Performance **3.30** The Vintage Chart Show **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: Alternative **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Focus on Faith **7.00** World News **7.05** Science in Action **7.30** On Your Behalf **7.45** Off the Shelf: Silas Marner **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** Best on Record **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: Alternative **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **11.45** Insight **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** *Science in Action* **12.55** *My Century* **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Books **2.00** The World Today **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today **4.30** Weekend

CLASSIC FM

6.00am *Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off* to a fine start **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour. Plus, favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favourite music **2.00** Concerto. Lalo (Cello Concerto in D minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news **6.30** Newsnight. Top stories and interviews with guests from the arts world **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces classic sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Beethoven (Overture Leonore); *Michele Esposito (Three Ballades)*; Beethoven (String Trio in No 3 in C minor); Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto in A flat major) **11.00** Mann at Night **2.00am** Concerto. Lalo (Cello Concerto in D minor) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

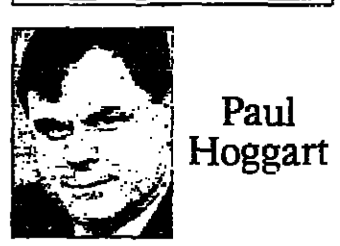
6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Grieg (*Peer Gynt Suite No 1*); *Mendelssohn* (String Symphony No 10 in B minor); Wagner (Overture: The Flying Dutchman)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Christian Horneman (Gurre Suite); Grieg (And I Will Take a Sweetheart; Autumn Storms); Schubert (Piano Sonata in F minor, D625); Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Julia Varady
11.00 Sound Stories: Clerics Richard Baker traces the spiritual journey of Cardinal Newman
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Liszt
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert John Scott, organist of St Paul's Cathedral, joins the flautist *Helen Keen for a duet recital from the Chapel of* Queen's College, Oxford
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska and Jun'ichi Hirokami, Piers Lane, piano. Beethoven (Overture: *Egmont*); *Mozart (Symphony No 35 in D, Haffner)*; Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 5 in E flat, Emperor); Nielsen (Symphony No 5)
4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeaping introduces a selection of music connecting England and France (r)
4.45 Music Machine Tommy Pearson talks to Colin Larkin and the *Times* music critic Caitlin Moran about the sound of the 1990s
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by the flamenco guitarist Paco Pena, whose new dance drama, *La Musa Gitana*, opened this week in London
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from the Music Hall, Aberdeen. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska, Elisabeth Batiashvili, violin. James MacMillan (The Confession of Isobel *Gowdie*); *Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D)* **8.40** News from North Britain: Coloured Lights, by Leila Aboulela. (3/5) **9.00** Sibelius (Symphony No 1)
9.50 Postscript: Outriders Patrick Wright talks to the publisher Marion Boyars who died earlier this week (5/5)
10.10 BBC Symphony Orchestra (Sounding the Century) Conductor Martyn Brabbins, Valdine Anderson, soprano. Boulez (Pli Selon Pli)
11.30 Jazz Century with Russell Davies (r)
12.00am Composer of the Week: Tavener (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod. **1.00** Monteverdi (Vespers, 1610) **2.20** Brahms (Alto Rhapsody) **2.30** Debussy (Suite bergamasque) **3.45** Mozart (Symphony No 29 in A) **5.15** Bach (Partita No 1 in B minor, BWV1002)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Desert Island Discs The writer Bill Bryson joins Sue Lawley as this week's castaway (r)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Best American Essays Ian Frazier views New York life via the subway from Brooklyn to Manhattan (5/5) (r)
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour Jenni Murray presents Helen Mirren's audio diary from South Africa
11.00 Great Grandad Had a Flat Head The novelist *Louise Doughty traces her Romany roots and* finds echoes of her ancestors' lives among today's travellers (r)
11.30 The Oldest Member: The Letter of the Law by P.G. Wodehouse. Starring Maurice Denham (6/6)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00pm (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Liz Barclay and John Waite present consumer issues and public service reports
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Say It with Flowers A florist's delivery boy exacts revenge on his girlfriend by taking bouquets to the wrong places. Written by Kevin Wong. See Choice (r)
3.00 Logged On Quentin Cooper takes listeners' calls *on Internet shopping*
3.30 A View with a Room Plans to celebrate the meeting of Henry Royce and the Hon Charles Rolls at the Midland Hotel in Manchester which led to their historic collaboration on car design (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle The history of Britain
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter explores the popularity of true crime writing (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten Political farce, by Steve Nallon and Turan Ali. Starring Maggie Steed, Mark Williams, Jan Ravens and Andrew Wincott (5/6)
7.00 The Archers Eddie takes a cover drive
7.15 Front Row Mark Lawson presents the nightly arts programme
7.45 Speaking for Themselves: The Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Dennis Skinner, the Rev Michael Santer, Sir Patrick Mayhew and Trevor Kavanagh respond to questions *from an audience in Walsall*, West Midlands
8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.00 The Friday Play: Emergency During the Second World War a German officer lands in Ireland, prompting a bizarre chain of events. Written by Robin Glendinning and starring Patrick O'Kane (r)
10.00 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets Final part, by John Mortimer. *Read by Rik Mayall*
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Oldroyd and guests preview the five nations' rugby tournament
11.30 (FM) Front Page Sport Rob Bonnet presents the first in a new series of sporting scandals which had wider implications. See Choice (1/3)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: Lemona's Tale Ken Saro-Wiwa's tale (5/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.**

Grisly details of the race to save the planet



REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

Doomed! We're All Doomed, I Tell You! That was not the subtitle of *Doomsday: What Can We Do?* (ITV), Monday night's frantic American Cook's tour of nuclear terrorism, asteroid impacts and killer viruses, but it should have been. Ah the *frisson* of imminent disaster! The thrill of the inevitable end of civilisation!

I wish I hadn't seen it, because it kept popping into my head like a novelty record during **Pandemic** (BBC2), *Horizon's* attempt to get to grips with the possibility of an outbreak of a deadly new flu virus, comparable to the epidemic of 1918. That killed between 40 and 100 million people, vastly more than the First World War.

Even serious programmes have to sell themselves, so we were not spared the lurid threats. We had a near miss last year, for instance. Only the slaughter of thousands of innocent Hong Kong chickens saved us from an epidemic which could, said Professor Robert Webster, have wiped out half the world's population.

In fact, like many programmes in this series, *it was the story of a* research race, and an entertaining story it was too. Scientists have been seeking preserved samples of the 1918 flu virus, in the hope that they will reveal how it got from birds to humans and why it was so lethal.

Dr Kirsty Duncan, a stylish young Canadian geographer, was organising an expedition to Svalbard, near Spitzbergen, where seven Norwegian miners died of flu in 1918. She hoped their infected soft tissue would be preserved in the permafrost. I thought geographers drew little pictures of sheep on *maps rather than digging up killer* viruses, but never mind.

Kirsty believes in ceremonies. *She assembled a team of* international flu experts and made them march into the conference behind a Scottish piper. Professor Webster had the temerity to question her approach, calling her something of a "neophyte". He was uncomfortable with all *the premature hype,* such as the Horizon documentary crew. He had not realised that Kirsty was also a control freak. She bristled. Anyone not committed to her project should leave now, she declared.

In fact, somebody had tried this trick before. Forty-six years ago, Dr Johan Hultin of California took preserved tissue from flu victims in Alaska. He tried to revive the virus by pushing frozen samples up the noses of laboratory ferrets. Well, you would, wouldn't you? Sometimes we need to defrost our fish fingers in a hurry. "Push them up a ferret's nose," I declare. "It works every time."

Meanwhile, in California, researcher Jeffrey K. Taubenberger had discovered that the US military keep a vast archive of dead servicemen's bodily tissues preserved in wax. Wax is a more reliable storage medium for this ghoulish library than, say, ferrets' noses. While Kirsty was whipping her boffins into line, Jeffrey K. found a bit of waxed 1918 lung, complete with virus, and pieced together most of its genetic code.

When his sample ran out he contacted Dr Hultin (now retired) who went back to Alaska to get some more. He didn't take any ferrets, though — just his wife's pruning shears. I guess they were the kind *marketed as "also useful for exhuming diseased corpses".*

Kirsty and team had arrived in Svalbard and held a lot of sensitive, meaningful and reverential ceremonies over the graves, with Kirsty presiding. They had so many masks, isolation suits and quarantine tents it looked like a scene from *E.T.* Then they got digging.

Kirsty's expedition cost £250,000. She found no usable virus samples. "The goal was to get soft tissue. We got soft tissue," she announced triumphantly. If that was all she wanted she could have tried the wastepaper basket in any doctor's waiting room. They are full of soft tissues, many impregnated with flu virus.

Hultin's pruning expedition cost less than £2,000, and he came back with an excellent sample. This usefully proved that establishing the virus's genetic code doesn't tell you how it spreads from birds to humans, or why it is so lethal. We are still doomed!

With an audience hovering around the million mark, **Family Confidential** is Channel 5's most successful "documentary" series. It is easy to see why. Exploring the everyday lives of the nation's most feckless, dim-witted or irresponsible families has a considerably grisly fascination. It is, of course, studiously non-judgmental.

The families are pure talk-show fodder. Anglia trawl their subjects up from the same murky research pool as *Trisha* and *Vanessa*. *It is a* new hybrid, a talku-soap or, perhaps a Springermentary. Usually one family member wants to complain about the others and they all want to be on telly. Last night, Pauline was mad with daughter Sharon, who dumps her kids on her for days to swan around as a topless kiss-o-gram. A chilly job: I hope she doesn't get flu.

Channel Five also launched a new series of **Bring Me The Head of Light Entertainment**, the comedy panel game hosted by irritating, squeaky Graham Norton. It is a tribute to (or rip-off of) the ghastly old series called *Joker's Wild*, where club comics told lame gags in answer to questions from Barry Cryer, but using alternative standups instead. Even the individual rounds all seemed lifted from other programmes.

It was not completely devoid of laughs, but most of them were only "alternative" in the sense that they were ruder than B. Manning could ever get away with on the box. Too much material, alas, felt clammy and dead. They could try shoving it up a ferret's nose.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (95495)
7.00 Breakfast News (T) (31124)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8212785)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4611360)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (6783124)
11.00 Real Rooms (6793501)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6763360)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1953747)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (32673)
12.30 Wipeout (8861209)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48419211)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (34211)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47148679)
1.40 Neighbours Sarah confronts her stalker (T) (25027834)
2.05 Ironside The Chief investigates a grenade attack on two Vietnam veterans (r) (3174495)
2.55 Body Spies A stress-busting plan to beat fatigue (5428785)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6341414) **3.45** Spider (2211018) **3.50** Smart on the Road (3376018) **4.05** Rugrats (6423414) **4.30** L & K Friday (5114308) **4.55** Newsround Extra (1647853) **5.10** Blue Peter (6205389)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (148766)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (414)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (766)
7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook *Casualty* stars Claire Goose and Rebecca Lacey attempt to create a meal against the clock (T) (6501)
7.30 Top of the Pops The week's chart-toppers, featuring the UK's number one single (T) (650)
8.00 Vets in Practice Keith and Fiona prepare to depart to different destinations (10/10) (T) (2921)
8.30 A Question of Sport Martin Johnson, Johnny Herbert, Steve Smith and Niall Quinn take part in the quick-fire sports quiz, with team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott (T) (1656)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (3872)
9.30 Parkinson Guests include Michael Caine and Harry Enfield (T) (824834)
10.22 Comic Relief: The Launch Preview of the fundraising event (T) (276940)



Jean-Claude Van Damme puts paid to some evil hunters (10.25pm)

10.25 Hard Target (1993) Violent thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme as a sailor investigating a group of sadistic hunters specialising in human quarry. Directed by John Woo (T) (9652679)
11.55 The Stand-Up Show (308056)
12.25am The Big End (r) (T) (6209032)
12.55 The Undead (1956) A deranged scientist manages to send a woman 1,000 years back in time, where she attempts to alter her destiny. Horror, starring Pamela Duncan and Val Dufour. Directed by Roger Corman (T) (4434544)
2.05 Weather (5895362)
2.10 BBC News 24 (54095506)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Hairy Jeremy (3479834) **7.05** Teletubbies (6397476) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (6176143) **7.55** Short Change (6722786) **8.18** Rewind (9326969) **8.20** Taz-Mania (7268124) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (3247872) **8.50** Johnson and Friends (3243056) **9.00** Storytime (2982619) **9.10** See You, See Me (4074969) **9.30** Numbertime (1159414) **9.45** Come Outside (1154969) **10.00** Teletubbies (95834) **10.30** Megamaths (7106230) **10.50** Look and Read (7193786) **11.10** Landmarks (9268853) **11.30** English File (9679) **12.00pm** Scene (32655) **12.30** Working Lunch (42679) **1.00** Johnson and Friends (94492501)
1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9156563)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61202872)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3564650)
2.45 Match of their Day With Malcolm Allison (5/15) (T) (2011292)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (4656330)
3.30 Turning Points (2214105)
3.35 The Natural World The spotted hyena (r) (T) (2641124)
4.25 Breathing Lessons (1993) An ageing couple's marriage is threatened by their contrasting views on life. With James Garner and Joanne Woodward. Directed by John Erman (T) (56914768)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (109143)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (110259)
6.45 Robot Wars Philippa Forrester presents motorised mayhem (T) (141582)
7.15 Electric Circus News and gossip from the world of entertainment (T) (242899)
7.30 CHOICE **Country House** Lord and Lady Tavistock are forced to make some decisions (T) (292)
8.00 Gardening from Scratch Helen Yemm helps to transform an old coal bunker into an attractive garden feature (r) (T) (9993)
8.30 CHOICE **Garden Stories** The team visit a retired lawyer's ultra-modern plot (T) (9698)



Tom (James Dreyfus) strikes it lucky with Nino (Charlie Condou) (9pm)

9.00 Gimme Gimme Gimme Tom has a night of passion with an Italian he meets in a pub (T) (1414)
9.30 Bang, Bang, It's Reeves and Mortimer Les Dennis makes his debut on stage at Baron's nightclub (6/6) (T) (55143)
10.00 The Young Ones Mr Balowski becomes a mad axeman (r) (T) (82114)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (840292)
11.15 The Outer Limits Aliens plot to destroy Earth (T) (623747)
12.00am Edith and Marcel (1983) Musical biopic, charting the relationship between the singer Edith Piaf and the boxing champion Marcel Cerdan. Evelyne Bouix and Marcel Cerdan Jr star. Directed by Claude Lelouch (T) (42020322)
2.35 Weather (4501612) **2.40** Close
3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision: English 3 (94254) **5.00** Close

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (31785)
6.00 GMTV (5666786)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5672211)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11786018)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7355747)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (39105)
12.59 HTV Crimestoppers (48411679)
1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Minnie hides her heartbreak (36679)
1.00 WALES: Wish You Were Here? Visits to Cuba, the Dolomites and Palma de Majorca (r) (T) (36679)
1.30 Home and Away Robert's plan is working (T) (38476)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (5090650)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep The shopping quiz (T) (526124)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (6456312)
3.20 HTV News (T) (9606835)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (6351768) **3.35** Timbuctoo (2233230) **3.40** Animal Stories (2221495) **3.50** Adam's Family Tree (5029650) **4.15** Gladiators Train 2 Win (159501) **4.45** Comin' Atcha (5137259)
5.10 A Country Practice Tom fines Esme (9445679)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (T) (779785)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (698394)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (958582)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (343650)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (834)
7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Popular game show (T) (8969)
7.30 Coronation Street Kevin and Sally prepare for a showdown (T) (178)
8.00 Airline The day of Katrina's wedding arrives (5/8) (T) (4389)
8.30 Neighbours from Hell Insight into life on the Cranhill estate on the outskirts of Glasgow (T) (6124)



Dean, who has wallpapered his kitchen using free samples (9pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Britain's Worst DIYers** Botchers and bodgers own up to their domestic disasters (T) (3124)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (98360)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (156495)
10.45 All the Right Moves (1983) An eager high-school football player clashes with his ambitious coach. Drama, starring Tom Cruise and Craig T. Nelson. Michael Chapman directs (80382501)
12.30am Pirate TV Offbeat guide to adventure sports (11/7) (38780)
1.00 State of Emergency (1994) Joe Mantegna stars in this drama as a stressed-out doctor battling against time, the authorities and cutbacks to save patients in his emergency department. *Directed by Lesli Linka Glatter* (912457)
2.35 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (6340457)
3.05 Baywatch (r) (T) (6221902)
3.55 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (4012254)
4.55 ITV Nightscreen (88193815)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (20490)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News;** Weather (T) (8754679) **1.00 Wish You Were Here?** (r) (T) (36679) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1841940) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (527853) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (9606835) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9445679) **6.25-7.00 Central News;** Weather (T) (958582) **10.30-10.40 Central News;** Weather (T) (165143) **10.40 FILM: Sweeney!** (94123834) **12.40am FILM: The Dunwich Horror** (903457) **2.15 Box Office America** (47544) **2.45 SeaQuest 2032** (r) (T) (3903167) **3.35 The Haunted Fishtank** (r) (40463167) **4.05 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (6425506) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7656780)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (7355747) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (5762698) **1.00 Westcountry Update** (36679) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1841940) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (527853) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (9606835) **5.08 Birthday People** (5530105) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9445679) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (47124) **10.30-10.45 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (156495) **10.45 The Other Side** (1/5) (411853) **11.15 Renegade** (774673) **12.10am-12.30 Tales from the Crypt** (7518728)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News** (7355747) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9445679) **6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (47124) **10.30 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (156495) **10.45 Dream Town** (411853) **11.15 Bob Monkhouse on Campus** (656124) **12.15am-12.30 The Making of Sphere** (6351544) **5.00-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (20490)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8766414) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8754679) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9445679) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (740414) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (582) **6.30-7.00 Off the Beaten Track** (2/10) (834) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (277679) **10.30 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (165143) **10.40-12.30 FILM: Donato and Daughter** (62445719)

S4C

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (44614607) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34346872) **9.00 Ysgolion:** Off Limits (83314037) **9.25 Schools at Work** (43650056) **9.30 Eureka** (94464143) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (94469698) **10.00 The Complete Cosmos** (65956037) **10.10 TVM** (20880940) **10.25 Iaith ar Daith** (20876747) **10.45 Enter the Maths Zone** (83092563) **11.00 The Technology Programme** (95721308) **11.15 Pa Newydd?** (95744259) **11.30 Powerhouse** (T) (40828853) **12.00pm Home Improvement** (T) (29745766) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38383853) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34356259) **1.30 Roots to Success** (T) (27970037) **1.50 FILM: The Virgin Queen** (T) (17808227) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (81286037) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81290872) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81296056) **5.00 Planed Plant** (64777747) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81287308) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54582230) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16465037) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64780211) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81297785) **8.00 Cefn Gwlad** (T) (64706259) **8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi** (T) (64785766) **9.00 Pawb a'i Farn** (62210209) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60487476) **10.35 Frasier** (T) (56894414) **11.05 So Graham Norton** (T) (47033582) **11.45 TFI Friday** (32522853) **12.50am Streetmate** (T) (26582902) **1.20 4 Later;** The RuPaul Show (20402728) **1.50 Johnny Meets Madonna** (r) (T) (14916980) **2.50 The Mod Squad** (97291964) **3.50 Vids** (61868728) **4.25 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.30am The Pink Panther (9403018)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (r) (8112389)
5.55 Sesame Street (3853211)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (24834)
9.00 Schools: Off Limits (4020037) **9.25** Schools at Work (6332698) **9.30** Eureka (1144582) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (1149037) **10.00** The Complete Cosmos (6685747) **10.10** TVM (9392230) **10.25** *Ulster Unearthed* (9388037) **10.45** Enter the Maths Zone (2167414) **11.00** The Technology Programme (8424747) **11.15** Stage One (8447698)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (4747)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (28501)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (37747)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (27921)
1.30 Earthscape The land iguana (90771211)
1.35 They Were Not Divided (1950) *Drama* following the experiences of English, Irish and American Welsh Guards during the Second World War. Directed by Terence Young (T) (38464259)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (940)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (747)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5107018)
4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (3754921)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (211)
6.00 TFI Friday Anthony Edwards and Henry Winkler join Chris Evans. Plus, music from Mansun and Mark Morrison (45766)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (349105)
7.55 Music of the Millennium (T) (270785)
8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan The niece of John Claude Tremayne visits the gardens to see how restoration work is progressing (5/6) (r) (T) (5259)



Karen (Amanda Humphrey) and Jimmy (Dean Sullivan) (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside Jackie is made to feel inferior when Karen and Jimmy get on well at the dinner party (T) (4766)
9.00 Friends Chandler's flamboyant mother arrives in New York for a visit (r) (T) (6582)
9.30 CHOICE **Boyz Unlimited** New six-part comedy following the fortunes of an all-singing, all-dancing teen boy band (1/6) (T) (40211)
10.00 Frasier The Seattle shrink goes on a date (T) (29230)
10.30 So Graham Norton New series. The camp comedian is joined by Bo Derek and the model Sophie Dahl (851308)
11.10 King of the Hill Cotton drops a bombshell (T) (524872)
11.40 TFI Friday Shown earlier (r) (815476)
12.45am 4 Later Introduction. The RuPaul Show (24693)
1.15 Late Toon: Pas a Deux European animation (6220254)
1.25 The Mod Squad A Vietnam veteran seeks refuge with Linc Hayes (8656896)
2.25 Vids Offbeat video reviews (r) (3905761)
3.00 This Sporting Life (1963) Powerful drama, starring Richard Harris as a successful rugby player. Directed by Lindsay Anderson (17703273)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines (6703018)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (6178259)
7.30 Milkshake! (4143853)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (3323785)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4106259)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (4198230)
9.00 Mixing It (r) (T) (1898766)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r) (7523037)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6269921)
10.20 Sunset Beach Ben reveals his true feelings (T) (1276414)
11.10 Leeza (4685037)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4176018)
12.30 Family Affairs (r) (T), 5 News Update (9111292)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sly feigns concern for Jessica (T) (6160230)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9110563)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5366292)
2.30 Good Afternoon (1919872)
3.30 The World's Oldest Living Bridesmaid (TVM 1990) A lonely high-powered female lawyer has her life turned upside down by her affair with a young male secretary. Romantic comedy, starring Donna Mills. Directed by Joseph L. Scanlan (9903834)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T), 5 News Update (9897835)
6.00 100 Per Cent Quiz (6523037)
6.30 Family Affairs Roy takes drastic action (T) (6514389)
7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (5377308)
7.30 Wild Water Dramatic footage of dolphins (T); 5 News Update (6536501)
8.00 Was It Good for You? A couple return to Disney World for the ninth consecutive year (5/14) (5386056)
8.30 Holiday Park The site boss Colin looks back on the successes and failures of the past season as he prepares to lock up for the winter (5/5) (T) (5365563)
9.00 Search for Justice (1996) Drama charting a bereaved woman's desperate struggle to overcome official indifference and prove that her daughter was murdered. Peggy Lipton, Danica McKellar and Bruce Weitz star. Directed by Noel Nosseck (T) (99830327)
10.50 Poltergeist: The Legacy Derek investigates when Damon is accused of abusing his son (r) (T) (9417940)
11.45 Hollywood Madam (TVM 1994) A detective investigating a prostitute's murder stumbles into a dangerous world of blackmail. Adult thriller, with Michael Nouri. Directed by Fred Gallo (1155679)
1.15am Beauty and Denise (TVM 1988) A tough cop protects a woman who witnessed the murder of a White House official. Political thriller, starring David Carradine and Julia Duffy. Directed by Neal Israel (1549341)
3.05 The Great Man's Lady (1941) The widow of a western pioneer looks back on the part she played in his success. Starring Barbara Stanwyck. Directed by William A Wellman (98951506)
4.35 Russell Grant's Postcards A winter sports exhibition (r) (80927693)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (9406411)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9168148)

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PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● **For further listings see Saturday's Vision**

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (84230) **7.30** The Chris Evans Breakfast Show (94259) **8.30** Hollywood Squares (40747) **9.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (50834) **10.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (69921) **11.00** Guilty! (89785) **12.00pm** Jenny Jones (81582) **1.00** Mad About You (83501) **1.30** Jeopardy (78018) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (47211) **3.00** Jenny Jones (46330) **4.00** Guilty! (99037) **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1834) **6.00** Married — With Children (5766) **6.30** Friends (6018) **7.00** The Simpsons (2563) **7.30** The Simpsons (8230) **8.00** Beat the Crusher (40259) **9.00** Surviving the Moment of Impact III (20495) **10.00** Cops (45292) **10.30** Cops (54940) **11.00** Friends (90786) **11.30** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (55501) **12.30am** The Commish (14322) **1.30** Long Play (7813490)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **The Peacemaker (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **The Ice Storm (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Trial and Error (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Fire Down Below (1997)**

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Short Attention Span Cinema (8615018) **9.00 Barcelona (1994)** (56658562) **9.40** La Reviel (2647501) **10.00 Metropolitan (1990)** (4286834) **12.00am Rabid (1976)** (2519235) **1.35 Un Flic (1972)** (1540709) **3.10 Point Break (1991)** (59647390) **6.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Cloak and Dagger (1984) (16698) **8.00 Calm at Sunset (1997)** (36105) **10.00 One Fine Day (1996)** (71105) **12.00pm It Takes Two (1995)** (59056) **2.00 Cloak and Dagger (1984)** (12476) **4.00 Calm at Sunset (1997)** (4309) **6.00 It Takes Two (1995)** (25940) **8.00 One Fine Day (1996)** (37785) **10.00 Vampire in Brooklyn (1995)** (221414) **11.45 The Juror (1996)** (337834) **1.40am The Desperate Trail (1994)** (231254) **3.15 Working Girl (1988)** (71962457)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.35am The Last Best Year (TVM 1990) (15274308) **7.10 Back to the Planet of the Apes (TVM 1974)** (33742209) **9.00 Back to the Beach (1987)** (58327) **11.00 Time to Say Goodbye? (1997)** (41258) **1.00pm All The Winters That Have Been (1997)** (52143) **3.00 Back to the Beach (1987)** (33389) **5.00 Time to Say Goodbye? (1997)** (50124) **7.00** P-Review (7259) **7.30** UK Top 10 (1358) **8.00** Femmes Fatales: Sigourney Weaver (3679) **8.30** Movie Magic: Ultimate Action (5414) **9.00 Ice (1998)** (81018) **10.30 Contagious (1997)** (25211) **12.00am Split (1996)** (52631) **1.30 Carriers (1997)** (972099) **3.05 Escape from Zone 14 (1953)** (259849) **4.40 All The Winters That Have Been (1997)** (17244186)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm The Big Clock (1948) (7853507) **6.00 Beware My Lovely (1952)** (1215921) **8.00 To Each His Own (1946)** (1227766) **10.00 Brubaker (1980)** (87642853) **12.10am French Connection II (1975)** (5276475) **2.05 The Sniper (1952)** (3004588) **3.40 Two for the Road (1967)** (41924490)

TNT

9.00pm WCW Nitro (88937785) **11.35** WCW Thunder (89780563) **1.15am Where the Spies Are (1965)** (89703438) **3.15 Shaft in Africa (1973)** (42004612)

SKY SPORTS 1

6.30am Futures in Sport **7.00** Wrestling **8.00** Live Golf: Malaysian Open **10.00** Racing News **10.30** Football League Review **11.30** What a Decade **12.00pm** Aerobics Oz Style **12.30** Sports Unlimited **1.30** Golf: Malaysian Open **3.30** US Golf: Pebble Beach National Pro-Am **5.30** What a Week-end **6.00** Sports Centre **7.00** Trans World Sport **8.00** Golf: Malaysian Open **10.00** Sports Centre **11.00** Hold the Back Page **12.00am** Sports Centre **1.00** Wrestling **3.00** Hold the Back Page **4.00** Friday Night Football **5.30** Total Sport

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00am Live Cricket **11.00** Rugby Club **12.00pm** Survival of the Fittest **12.30** Live Cricket **8.00** Cricket **10.00** US Golf: Pebble Beach Pro-Am **12.00am** Friday Night Football **1.30** Cricket **5.00** Moto-Plus **5.30** Extreme Sailing

SKY SPORTS 3

11.30am Futures in Sport **12.00pm** Trans World Sport **1.00** Fishing: Tight Lines **2.00** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook **3.30** Spanish Football **5.30** Moto-Plus **6.00** Extreme Sailing **6.30** Inside the Senior PGA Tour **7.00** Live Friday Night Football **10.00** World Wrestling Federation: Raw **12.00am** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am US Golf **8.30** Snowboarding **9.00** Extreme Sports **10.00** Racing Line **11.00** Live Luge **1.00pm** Snowboarding **1.30** Live Tennis **4.00** Luge **5.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **6.05** Live Athletics **8.00** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **9.20** Live Women's Alpine Skiing **10.30** Car on Ice **11.00** Playlife **11.30** Extreme Sports **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Detectives **9.00** The Thin Blue Line **9.40** Knowing Me, Knowing You with Alan Partridge **10.20** Ruby Wax Meets Heidi Fleiss **11.00** The Bill **11.30** The Bill **12.00am** Doctor Who **3.00** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** On the Buses **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** thirtysomething **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Agony **2.00** thirtysomething **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Men and Motors

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.25** Classic Toons **6.35** Gummi Bears **7.00** Classic Toons **7.10** Aladdin **7.35** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Goof Troop **8.25** Classic Toons **8.45** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **9.00** The Adventures of Spot **9.05** Animal Shelf **9.15** Pocket Dragons **9.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **9.55** The Toothbrush Family **10.00** Bite Size **10.10** Tots TV **10.30** The Big Garage **10.45** PB and J Otter **11.00** Sesame Street **12.00pm** The Adventures of Spot **12.05** Animal Shelf **12.15** Pocket Dragons **12.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **12.55** The Toothbrush Family **1.00** Bite Size **1.15** Tots TV **1.30** The Big Garage **1.45** PB and J Otter **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **7.50** Classic Toons **8.00** FILM: **Labyrinth (1986)** **9.35** Home Improvement **10.00** Dinosaurs **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo **6.30** Power Rangers Turbo **7.00** Mortal Kombat **7.25** Oggy and the Cockroaches **7.30** Donkey Kong Country **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Spiderman **9.00** X-Men **9.25** Fantastic Four **9.50** The Incredible Hulk **10.05** Casper **10.30** Oggy and the Cockroaches **10.55** The Mouse and the Monster **11.05** Eek!Stravaganza **11.30** Life with Louie **11.55** Home to Rent **12.05pm** Sam and Max **12.30** Donkey Kong Country **1.00** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **1.25** Ace Ventura **1.50** Spiderman **2.15** X-Men **2.40** Fantastic Four **3.05** The Incredible Hulk **3.30** Roy and Lisa's Big Ride **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.50** Oggy and the Cockroaches **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** Eek!Stravaganza **7.00** Close



Steven Seagal stars as an FBI agent taking on corrupt businessman Kris Kristofferson in *Fire Down Below* (Sky Box Office 4)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Catdog **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** The Wild Thornberrys **8.30** Arthur **9.00** Children's BBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear/Budgie the Little Helicopter/Animal Antics/Family Ness **12.00pm** Rugrats **12.30** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Clangers/King Rollo/Wombles/Bod **2.30** Children's BBC **3.00** Children's BBC **3.30** Pippi Longstocking **4.00** Hey Arnold! **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan and Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** Driven Crazy **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempest **10.00** Echo Point **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempest **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Movies, Games and Videos **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** L.A.P.D. **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Series **11.00** FILM: **The Thomas Crown Affair (1968)** **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **3.05** FILM: **The Manitou (1978)** **5.00** L.A.P.D. **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Cybill **9.30** Vic Reeves Big Night Out **10.00** The Rutles **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 6pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** The Twilight Zone **12.30** The Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** The Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **6.30** New Alfred Hitchcock **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** Amazing Stories **8.30** Highlander: The Raven **9.30** The Hunger **10.00** FILM: **Poltergeist III (1988)** **12.00am** FILM: **The Wind of Amnesia (1993)** **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Guyver **2.30** 100 Years of Horror **3.00** The Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Craftwise **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** The Great Garden Game **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** Two's Country: Get Stuck In **11.30** Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Specials **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Adventures of the Quest **7.30** Beyond 2000 **8.00** Outback Adventures **8.30** Uncharted Africa **9.00** Snow Coaches **10.00** The Bounty Hunter **11.00** Weapons of War **12.00am** Barry Gray **1.00** History's Turning Points **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm The Blue Beyond **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Crocodile Hunter **2.00** Wild Rescues **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Crocodile Hunter **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Animal X **9.00** Ocean Wilds **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Troubled Waters **10.30** Vet School **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Fowl Water **7.30** After the Hurricane **8.00** The Shark Files: Married with Sharks **9.00** Wildlife Wars **10.00** Africa: Playing God with Nature **11.00** Gorilla **12.00am** Pandas: A Giant Stirs

HISTORY

4.00pm The World at War: Bomb **5.00** The Brooklyn Bridge **6.00** Reincarnation **7.00** Biography: Idi Amin

CARLTON FOOD

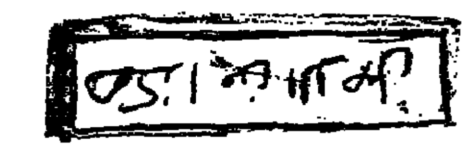
9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** First Taste **10.30** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Newman Meets **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Gordon Ramsay's Passion for Flavour **2.00** Can't Stand the Heat **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** For Better, for Worse **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** New Chefs on the Block **4.30** Tessa Bramley's Country Kitchen **5.00** Close

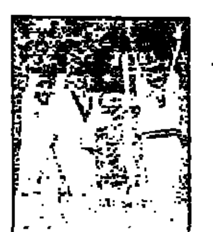
LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Philbert the Frog **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show: Highlights **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Living Issues **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Babel: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Rolonda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00** FILM: **All She Ever Wanted (1996)** **11.00** The Sex Zone **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Sony Meri Lorry **6.30** Mast Mast Show **7.00** Faith **7.30** News **8.00** Zee World **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Adhikar **10.00** Anhone **11.00** Zake Ka Salar **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm** FILM: **Hindi Movie: Pyar Diwana** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** It's My Choice **4.00** Campus **4.30** Zee Zone **5.30** Amanat **6.00** Artist of the Fortnight **6.30** Zee and You: Showcase **7.00** Chashme Baddoor **7.30** Entertainment Express **8.00** News **8.30** Aashirwad **9.30** FILM: **Hindi Movie: Barsaat Ki Raat** **12.00am** News **12.30** Ru-Ba-Ru **1.00** X-Zone **2.00** FILM: **Hindi Movie: Amar Shakti**





CRICKET 45
India trapped as Saqlain spins his web

SPORT

GERALD DAVIES 49
English disdain serves to rub salt in old wounds



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5 1999

Davies takes pivotal role for England

By Matt Dickinson

GEOFF THOMPSON, the chairman of the Football Association, is due to leave the country for a month-long break shortly, but the search for the next England manager will move on apace. The man pulling the strings, as he has been doing all week, will be David Davies.

Since his appointment as acting chief executive after the removal of Graham Kelly at Lancaster Gate, Davies has grown from being the FA's senior press officer to the most powerful administrator in the English game.

It was he, with Thompson, who brought together the men who would decide on Hoddle's dismissal and it will be Davies who will co-ordinate the appointment of the successor. It is a long way from his former incarnation as a BBC journalist.

Next Thursday, after the England match against France at Wembley, Davies is expected to meet the FA's international committee and a group of four or five councillors will be empowered to lead the search. David Sheepshanks, the chairman of Ipswich Town, David Dein, the vice-chairman of Arsenal, and Noel White, who chairs the international committee, will hope, and expect, to be charged with the job.

Bizarrely, Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director, who is standing in as caretaker coach of the national team, is also expected to have a prominent role, even though he is having serious thoughts as to whether he wants the job himself. Many at the FA expect Wilkinson to stay in the post at least until June and results in the interim could turn him into the main contender.

Yet it is not only Wilkinson who is on trial. It will be Davies's job to ensure that the search is an efficient one and the success of that operation may go a long way to determining whether he is appointed



Laslandes: starts match

chief executive on a permanent basis or whether he chooses to pursue his political ambitions.

Putting together the mechanism is likely to prove far easier than finding the coach. Having turned down the chance to manage France, Arsène Wenger is not going to opt for England, while senior Manchester United figures acted yesterday to stifle talk of Alex Ferguson, who will be revelling in the attention, given that he is due to sit down to renegotiate his contract this summer.

The Old Trafford board believes that it can satisfy Ferguson's wage demands with the promise of a testimonial match and the seemingly imminent appointment of an assistant would suggest that the United manager is content to limit himself to club level. Steve McClaren, the first-team coach at Derby County, has emerged as Ferguson's choice, and talks will begin today about a move to Old Trafford.

The only outstanding coach who is presently out of work is Terry Venables, who received the backing of Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, yesterday. "With Terry available, there is no way the FA should be looking at foreign coaches," Robson said, but Venables would appear to have too many influential enemies.

Given the difficulty facing the FA, Thompson is probably glad to be leaving the decision to his colleagues as to who should replace Hoddle. "Glenn had lost the general support of the country and he had also lost support on the international committee," Thompson said yesterday. "Glenn made a bad error of judgment and he accepts that now. I respect him for that. When in public life, it is important that people consider what they say on matters of such sensitivity.

"Whoever gets the job needs to understand all aspects of the game. They must have qualities of leadership and vision and the ability to listen to other people. We want the best man for the job, we don't want to rush into anything, but, as far as I am concerned, the quicker, the better."

For now, though, it is Wilkinson who must lead his country against a France squad that will include five England-based players in Desailly and Leboeuf, from Chelsea, and Petit, Vieira and Anelka, of Arsenal. Zinedine Zidane, the World Player of the Year, was also among the 18 names announced yesterday, while Roger Lemerre, the France coach, has already confirmed that Lilian Laslandes, the joint-top goalscorer in the French league for Bordeaux, will start the match next Wednesday.

Asked if England would be affected by Hoddle's dismissal, Lemerre said yesterday: "The English will always be the English. For them, the truth is on the pitch and not outside. Their combativity remains a great strength. They always bounce back.

"It is easy to scoff at English football for being one-dimensional and to be condescending about it. That is an insult to all the English have done for football. The long balls, clearances and crosses for headers are just a caricature.

"Our challenge is to win at the Wembley temple. My players were world champions, so why can't they be the first French team to beat the English at their lucky stadium?"

FRANCE SQUAD

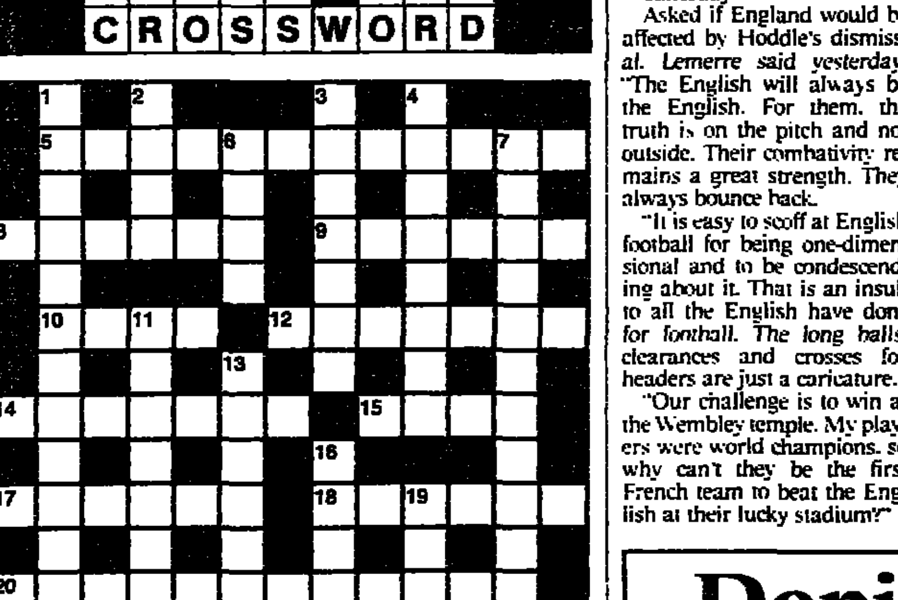
GOALKEEPERS: F Barthez (AS Monaco), **S Porato** (Marseilles).

DEFENDERS: L Blanc (Marseilles), **V Candela** (AS Roma) **M Desailly** (Chelsea), **F Leboeuf** (Chelsea) **B Lizarazu** (Bayern Munich), **L Thuram** (Parma)

MIDFIELD PLAYERS: A Boghossian (Parma), **D Deschamps** (Juventus), **Z Zidane** (Juventus), **Y Djorkaeff** (Internazionale), **E Petit** (Arsenal), **P Vieira** (Arsenal)

FORWARDS: N Anelka (Arsenal), **C Dugarry** (Marseilles), **R Pires** (Marseilles), **L Laslandes** (Bordeaux)

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1633

ACROSS
- 5 Careless with large (not small) sums (5-7)
- 8 Drive, thrust (6)
- 9 (Am. Ind.) ceremony: conference (6)
- 10 Rounded projection (4)
- 12 Capital of Sri Lanka (7)
- 14 (Job) opening (7)
- 15 Muddle: fellow-diners (4)
- 17 Computer trespasser (6)
- 18 Burning (with zeal, love) (6)
- 20 Firework display (12)

DOWN
- 1 Star group as eg Andromeda (6,6)
- 2 Leap (4)
- 3 One for orator to stand on (7)
- 4 Whale's nostril (8)
- 6 Toy figure (4)
- 7 Entertainment industry (4,8)
- 11 He summons Commons to Lords (5,3)
- 13 Marked (for life) (7)
- 16 Hit: party *(slang)* (4)
- 19 Fall in drops (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1632
ACROSS: 1 Two's company 8 Lethe 9 Capable 10 Haft 11 Runabout 13 Cutler 14 People 17 Absolved 19 Jamb 22 Bouquet 23 Dregs 24 Beyond a joke
DOWN: 1 Tilth 2 Out of it 3 Chew 4 Mock-up 5 Alphabet 6 Yobbo 7 Nettle 12 Jealousy 13 Crabbe 15 Placebo 16 Fenton 18 Squib 20 Baste 21 Idea

New York beckons unsung British boxer

RICHARD LEE-HAIR



Clarke sells leather to augment his boxing earnings and some worry that he might get tanned by the impressive Vargas on his New York adventure

Clarke relishes place at the Garden party

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

HOWARD CLARKE, an eight-round journeyman from Warley, could barely believe his luck when he found himself on the New Year's Honours List for services to boxing. Not the honours list that comes from Downing Street, or those high-sounding government offices in Whitehall, but the one that is issued by the home of boxing itself: Madison Square Garden.

Clarke has been chosen to meet Fernando Vargas in the latter's first defence of his International Boxing Federation (IBF) light-middleweight championship, a contest that is on the undercard of the Lennox Lewis v Evander Holyfield world heavyweight championship bout in New York on March 13.

Clarke, 31, thought that there was some some mistake when Pat Cowdell, his manager, broke the news. After all, for most of his career, which started in 1991, he had not been called upon to journey too far from Dudley, where he works in Leather World. In 1998, he did box in Hammarskraal, South Africa, and Tenerife, but until then the farthest he had travelled was to Cardiff.

Boxing against Vargas at the Garden is the equivalent of Rushden and Diamonds playing at Wembley in the FA Cup Final. "It was just after Christmas that Pat called me," Clarke said. "I hadn't seen him for six months. He said: 'I've got a fight for you. Do you want it?' I said: 'Well, I don't know. OK, I'll take it. Where is it?' He said: 'Sit down. Madison Square Garden. Against Fernando Vargas.' I thought it was a wind-up, but Pat kept saying it wasn't."

Clarke had been picked out of the IBF rankings because of the British interest in the main event, but he was not certain how he reached the rankings without even challenging for a British area title and having suffered ten defeats in his 37 contests.

Clearly, though, it was on the strength of his win over Jason Papillion, of Louisiana, on the Carl Thompson v Chris Eubank card at Sheffield last July. Papillion had been in the IBF top 15. "I was all over him, beat him out of sight," Clarke said. The £500-a-night, have-bag-and-boots-will-travel fighter is reported to be receiving around £30,000 for the New York bout. But for him, the money is secondary.

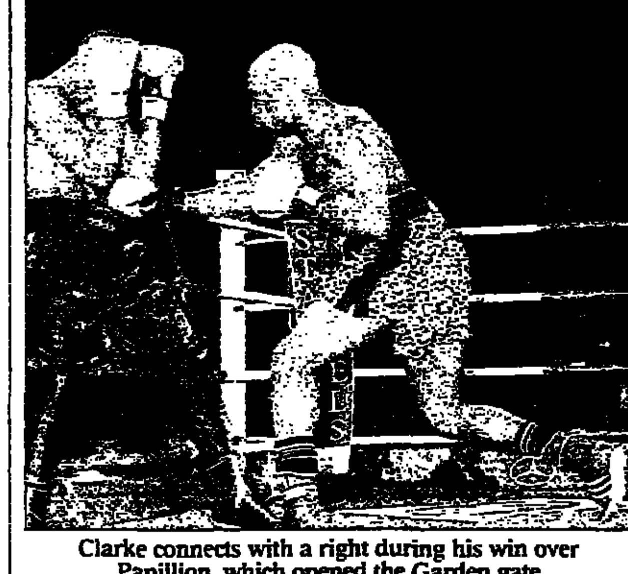
"I felt honoured that I was given the chance not only to fight at Madison Square Garden but on the undercard of such a great heavyweight fight. That meant more to me than the money. Although I don't know what I'll be getting anyway, because I haven't seen the contract yet."

Not unlike those receiving honours from the Queen, Clarke had been told by Cowdell to keep the news to himself — but the boxer just had to tell someone. "How could I keep such a thing secret? I told my mum and dad and after that, of course, everyone knew. But I deserve it. After all, I beat a ranked fighter. I know I have to stay out of the pub and I've been out running in Warley Woods every day since I heard.

"You know, the day Pat called me, it was my wife Susan's birthday. She's my rock. We've been married 11 years and we have five kids. I said to her: 'What do you want for your birthday?' And she said: 'Bring me back the IBF belt.' Yes, Vargas is a good fighter, but I'm a better one."

Let us hope everything in the Garden stays rosy for Clarke. Some experts are saying that he should not be allowed to take on Vargas. They are concerned about the discrepancy in the abilities of the two men, on paper and on canvas. The American, 21, is an exceptional boxer. All 15 of his bouts have ended inside the distance. Others believe that Clarke does not risk serious injury because the bout will be over quickly.

John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, said of Clarke: "He's a tough and professional fighter," but he added that the board would be considering whether the match was a suitable one before deciding whether to let him make the trip to New York.



Clarke connects with a right during his win over Papillion, which opened the Garden gate

Doping policy left stagnant

A conference that had a chance to help eradicate drugs in sport failed. John Goodbody reports

The much-heralded world conference on doping ended in fudged disarray here yesterday — becoming another missed opportunity to impose a severe anti-drugs policy.

The use of drugs in international sport has been widespread since the early Sixties. Every time that there has been a high-profile incident, such as the death of Tommy Simpson, the British cyclist, in the 1967 Tour de France, or the positive finding on Ben Johnson, the Canada sprinter, at the 1988 Olympic Games, we have been told by the authorities that it was a "watershed" and things had to change.

They have not. This conference was called after the scandal of the 1998 Tour de France, when performance-enhancing substances were found in the equipment of teams and their officials. The final declaration yesterday by the conference, sponsored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and attended by sports federations, scientists and governments, was simply anodyne.

It lays down a minimum sanction for significant doping substances of two years for a first offence. However, the declaration allows for a possible modification of the two-year sanction because the sports of both football and cycling believe that they cannot impose such harsh restrictions.

> 'The IOC could have taken action years ago'

Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, described the sanctions as both "minimalist and permissive". Eleven years ago, in this city, the General Assembly of International Sports Federations also agreed to a minimum two-year ban, although this agreement has never subsequently been carried out in several sports — because, over the past 11 years, competitors, particularly wealthy ones, in popular sports have increasingly challenged sanctions in civil law, claiming that they are an unjustifiable restraint of trade. Different countries have different legal systems and athletes are understandably resentful when their rivals are allowed to compete because they have won a legal case.

The conference did agree to set up an independent international anti-doping agency in time for the Olympic Games in 2000. The IOC is committing £16 million in funding. However, European Union countries, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Norway do not want the chairman to be an IOC member and are demanding a clear role for their governments in the agency. A series of discussions will take place to settle the membership and targets of the agency.

Banks said that having invited governments that contribute, collectively, far more than the IOC to the fight against drugs to the conference, it cannot exclude them from the agency. He added: "I say that in all friendliness because these issues are bigger than the IOC and at times it might come as a surprise to the IOC that there are things bigger than the IOC."

If the Olympic movement had wanted sole responsibility, it could have acted years ago. It was urged to act then, but he argued that it was only responsible for drug testing during the games.

Nor are governments blameless. In Great Britain, the Conservative Government repeatedly reneged on a promise made in September 1978 that the possession of hormone drugs, without a medical prescription, would become a criminal offence. The Labour Government now has an opportunity to join with a handful of countries which have already enacted such legislation.